UKRAINIAN NEWS
УКРАЇНСЬКІ ВІСТІ

Edmonton November 20 - December 3, 1996 Vol. LXIX №22 Price $1.50

Battle over BSF continues

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Boryslav will laugh once again

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На ст. 6

Breakthrough reported on Crimea Constitution

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Epic to start aggressive drilling program

May increase Ukraine's oil production by 15%

By Marco Levytsky

Calgary-based Epic Energy has announced an aggressive drilling program that, when completed, could increase Ukraine's current oil production by 15 percent.

"We could become one of the most significant producers of oil and gas in Ukraine very quickly," Epic President and CEO Ron Cormick *told Ukrainian News.*

Cormick said Epic will have four rigs drilling more than 100 shallow production wells in Crimea's Kerch Peninsula, expanding the existing transportation and storage facilities, and drilling several exploratory wells designed to add more shallow oil reserves to the company's ledger.

Most of the drilling should be done next year, but the company may start on some wells before the end of 1996, he added.

The four test wells that Epic has already drilled in the Aktash field are producing 1,000 barrels per day (bpd). Cormick said the 100 new wells will be drilled closer together and produce half the payload.

Even so, this would amount to an average of 125 bpd per well, or 12,500 bpd from the whole project.

Projected over a year and translated into metric measurement, this would amount to 635,000 tons per year. Ukraine's projected 1996 oil production is only 4.165 million tons.

Ukraine produces only 10 percent of its domestic oil consumption. For the rest it is largely dependent upon Russia.

But Cormick warns that this program may still fall through if a document confirming Epic's tax exempt status is not ready in time. He said Epic has been promised such an exemption as one of the first Western companies to invest in Ukraine's oil and gas program. Cormick added that Ukraine would attract much more foreign investment in the oil and gas sector if the country "removes the onerous tax structure."

Epic's drilling program became possible after the company completed a private placement of 20 million special warrants for gross proceeds of C$20 million. Investors include several major institutional funds.

Of this amount, C$5 million, augmented by internal cash flow, will be used to develop the Kerch shallow oil fields.

An additional C$8-10 million of the financing are to be used to evaluate the potential of the deeper oil-gas-condensate fields by conducting comprehensive feasibility studies and potentially re-completing two or three preserved, Ukrainian-drilled wells.

Epic, through its wholly owned subsidiary (HHO Ltd.), is a 60 percent owner of the KrymTexasNafta joint venture, with Ukraine's State Property Fund owning the other 40 percent through the state geological enterprise, Krymgeologia. KrymTexasNafta has pre-emptive rights to explore and develop oil and gas reserves in Crimea.

See also Page 14

PHOTO — B. P. LONG

Left to Right: Ronald K. Cormick, President and CEO of Epic Energy; Leonid Yedeshko, General Manager, Krymgeologia; Bohdan Byalyuk, Deputy Chairman, Ukrainian State Committee on Geology and Utilization of Mineral Resources and Denis Mosher, drilling manager on the first test well, stand in front of the rig which drilled the four test wells in the Aktash field.

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Скандал у Верховній Раді

Депутат вимагає негайно вивести з Криму «українські окупаційні війська»

Ігор Стратій

(КБУВ)—В останній на минулому тижні робочий день в українському парляменті вчинився скандал, що призвів до зриву пленарного засідання і проведення екстремної наради представників фракцій і депутатських груп.

Зранку в п'ятницю, 15 листопада, було поширено альтернативний законопроєкт про виведення російських військ з Севастополя. Автор — депутат з Чернігова, лідер незареєстрованої шовіністичної депутатської групи «Союз» Іван Симоненко.

А йшлося в ньому далебі не про російську вояччину, а про речі абсолютно протилежні. Власне, російським військам теж відводився в постановчій частині один пункт — пропонувалося вивести їх з областей України до... 21 січня 2021 року. Натомість «українські окупаційні війська» (!) вимагалося вивести з Криму негайно. А сам Крим називався не інакше, як «українською колонією».

Члени допутатських груп і фракцій «РУХ», «Конституційний центр», «Реформи», «Соціяльно–ринковий вибір» повиймали реєстраційні картки і наполягли, щоб цю провокацію було негайно розслідувано. Особливо дісталося спікеру О. Морозу, котрому підпорядковано апарат Секретаріяту: як могла бути розмноженою і поширеною офіційно ця антиконституційна, ворожа депеша?

Неважко передбачити, як би потішилися російські засоби інформації появою цього документу. Адже він містив ще більший антиукраїнський заряд, ніж документи російської Думи, де роздмухування шовіністичного психозу вже стало нормою. Конче вимагалася реакція на цю провокацію. І під кінець дня було оголошено заяву, в якій Верховна Рада засуджувала зміст провокаційної депеші і відмежовуваляся від неї.

Прикметно, що заяву підтримали представники всіх депутатських груп і фракцій, включно з комуністами, котрі спершу утримувалися. Приєдналися до неї й Голова ВР та його заступники. А щоб не загострювати уваги на можливих розбіжностях та уникнути зайвих дебатів, голосування через електронну систему не влаштовували. Проголосували «вручну»: чи є хтось проти? — Шість чоловік...

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У Чорному Морі — «Бермудський трикутник»

Андрій Шевченко

(КБУВ)—У Криму вже другий місяць говорять про появу «Бермудського трикутника». Український риболовецький сейнер «Савор–3» востаннє вийшов на зв'язок неподалік від Євпаторії півтора місяця тому. МІГ–29, яким керував майор українських військово–повітряних сил України Олег Кулик, радари втратили з поля зору три тижні тому. Обидва зникнення сталися біля кримських берегів і залишаються загадкою для вітчизняних рятівників.

Українські рибалки щезли двадцять восьмого вересня у квадраті, де проводила свої навчання Чорноморська Фльота — перші за останні три роки. Щоправда, зі слів російського фльотського керівництва, навчання закінчились на день раніше, але серед членів української комісії, створеної для розслідування, версія невдалої зустрічі «Савора–3» з військовими кораблями вважається найвірогіднішою.

Винищувач МІГ–29, що в четвер зранку піднявся з аеродрому в кримському селищі Коровське, мав повертатися на базу у Васильків під Києвом. Натомість, набравши висоту, літак розвернувся над Джанкоєм і почав втрачати висоту. Зв'язок з пілотом Олегом Куликом встановити не вдалося, і, пролетівши над Сімферополем, винищувач щез з екранів диспечерів на південь від кримського узбережжя. Зник на висоті 3400 метрів над водою.

Група літаків і вертольотів досі шукає МІГ на землі й у морі, але покищо марно. Військове керівництво відкидає можливість викрадення винищувача і появи його в одній із сусідніх країн, бо про це уже б говорив весь світ. На думку помічника міністра оборони Володимира Ткачука, літак розбився — або через технічні неполадки, або, що найімовірніше, через нездатність льотчика керувати літаком.

Тим часом, на думку спеціялістів, експлуатація української як морської, так і авіяційної техніки стає дедалі небезпечнішою. Уже сьогодні коштів вистачає хібащо на зразково–показові армійські навчання, якими час від часу радують керівників держави, а значна частина українських кораблів та літаків дуже скоро може просто перетворитися на брухт. Навіть без усіляких загадкових зникнень.

На часі — майбутні вибори

Ігор Стратій

(КБУВ)—Найбільшою «живинкою» у політичному житті останніх днів стало обговорення в парляменті нового закону про вибори.

Розглядався проєкт чисто пропорційної виборчої системи (за партійними списками) і кілька проєктів — змішаної пропорційно–мажоритарної (250 мандатів — за партійними списками і стільки ж — за одномандатними територіяльними округами).

Нині діючу мажоритарну систему, що принижувала ролю політичних партій в формуванні влади, офіційно не підтримував ніхто, але насправді парлямент розколовся навпіл: одні виступали за політичну структуризацію суспільства, а інші ухилялися: депутат, мовляв, має бути «прив'язаним» до своїх виборців, цей закон нині не є найважливішим, ухвалення його активізує передвиборчі потуги і може спричинити достроковий розпуск парляменту... Адже багато депутатів бояться змін, бо тоді на виборах їм не допоможуть ні гроші, ні адміністративна підтримка в «своїх» округах.

Жоден з проєктів не дістав належної підтримки. Утворено узгоджувальну групу, що працюватиме над єдиним проєктом до квітня наступного року. Але слухання продемонструвало деякі переорієнтації в політичному середовищі. Найпалкішими прихильниками пропорційної системи (вибори за партійними списками) є комуністи, соціялісти і рухівці, значною мірою підтримують їх лібералі та члени Селянської партії, яка часто «лівує». Проти — незалежні депутати, члени груп «Конституційний центр» і «Реформ». Не маючи за собою партій, вони бояться змін.

Напевно, весною буде прийнято змішану виборчу систему. *Її підтримує й спікер О. Мороз*, котрий вміє маніпулювати депутатами. Він активно відстоює навіть чисто партійну схему, хоч у парляменті минулого скликання був рішучим противником її.

Державні символи України

(УНІАР)—Під головуванням першого віце–прем'єр–міністра Василя Дурдинця відбулося спільне установче засідання Державних комісій з підготовки і проведення конкурсів на кращий ескіз великого Державного Герба і кращий текст Державного Гімну України.

Конкурс проводиться відповідно до постанов Верховної Ради і Кабінету міністрів України. До складу державних конкурсних комісій входять члени уряду, керівники депутатських фракцій і груп, голови творчих спілок, вчені, письменники і композитори.

На установчому засіданні комісій було обговорено і схвалено програму та умови відкритих конкурсів на кращий ескіз великого Державного Герба та кращого тексту Державного Гімну України. Головним елементом Герба має бути знак Княжої держави — Володимира Великого а тексту Державного Гімну України — музика Вербицького.

Конкурси проводяться протягом місяця з дня опублікування їх програми і умов у газеті «Урядовий кур'єр». Державні комісії визначать 5 кращих ескізних проєктів Герба та 5 кращих текстів Гімна. Буде також проведено виставку поданих ескізів герба. Проєкти, що посядуть перші місця, подаються Кабінету міністрів для внесення їх на розгляд Верховної Ради.

Підводячи підсумки засідання, Василь Дурдинець наголосив на великому громадянському й міжнародному значенні проведення конкурсів. Вони мають сприяти вихованю патріотизму, поваги до державних символів, утверджувати авторитет України. Саме тому конкурси проводяться відкрито, з широким залученням до участи та обговоренні усіх, кому не байдужа доля України.

Студентські пікети у Києві

(РУХ–Прес)—14 листопада осередок Молодого Руху Київського політехнічного інституту провів пікетування навчальних корпусів. Студенти збирали підписи під вимогами збільшення бюджетних витрат на освіту, дотримання чиновниками Конституції, скасування інституту прописки. Акція відбувалася в рамках кампанії «Конституція. Свобода. Освіта».

Цього ж дня студенти Інституту легкої промисловості та інших вузів пікетували кабінет Міністрів та Міністерство освіти, вимагаючи від уряду звернути увагу на студентські проблеми.

За даними штабу кампанії «Конституція. Свобода. Освіта», протягом минулих двох тижнів пікетувалися навчальні заклади в одинадцяти областях України Під вимогами Молодого Руху зібрано близько трьох тисяч підписів.

Гривня дешевшає

Валентина Карпенко

(КБУВ)—У жовтні рівень інфляції українських грошей знову знизився до півтора місячних відсотка. Але це тимчасове явище.

Курс доляра, а особливо німецької марки знову поповз угору. Явище закономірне: дається взнаки ріст цін за споживання газу та накопичення боргів по заробітній платі. Оскільки ж виробництво продовжує «буксувати», а невдоволення працівників бюджетної сфери все важче стримувати, навіть непоступливий голова правління Національного банку Віктор Ющенко заявив, що «не буде невиправдано стримувати курс гривні».

Більшість експертів вважають, що нині фінансова система функціонує в оптимальному режимі 5 щомісячних відсотків інфляції. Це суперечить домовленостям України з міжнародними фінансовими організаціями, бо на кінець року потрібно було застабілізувати інфляцію на рівні 1–ого відсотка. А головне — поставлено під загрозу бюджет 1997 року.

Обіцяних урядом на наступний рік 25 відсотків річної інфляції досягти навряд чи вдасться. А отже — і оживити завдяки цьому виробництво. Знову стає проблемою зниження податків, які непосильним тягарем лягли на плечі виробника.

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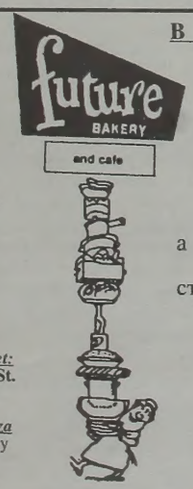

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Breakthrough reported on Crimean constitution

(JF Monitor)—Ukrainian and Crimean lawmakers, meeting in Kyiv on Nov. 16, are reported to have reached agreement on almost all the disputed articles in Crimea's draft constitution.

The constitution was adopted by the Crimean parliament in November 1995, but the Ukrainian parliament objected to more than 20 of its provisions — on citizenship, state languages, and state symbols — and ordered Crimea to align those provisions with Ukrainian law.

Deputy Speaker of the Crimean parliament Vladimir Klychnikov said compromises have now been reached on almost all the disputed points. For example, the article on citizenship now stipulates that "citizens of Ukraine who permanently reside in Crimea shall be citizens of Crimea." The words "republic symbols" will replace the term "state symbols," which was unacceptable to the Ukrainian authorities.

Klychnikov said he hopes the amended constitution will be adopted by the Crimean parliament within two to three weeks.

If so, this should resolve a dispute between Ukraine and its predominantly Russian-populated autonomous republic that has at times seriously threatened to disrupt relations between Kyiv and Moscow.

Rada in uproar over Sevastopol bill

(OMRI)—Leaders of all caucuses in Ukraine's parliament have signed a statement condemning a draft law on the withdrawal of Ukrainian military from Sevastopol, Ukrainian agencies reported on Nov. 15.

The bill was proposed by Ivan Symonenko of the Soyuz caucus, who demanded that the Ukrainian "occupational forces" pull out from Sevastopol by July 1, 1997.

Symonenko described Crimea as a Ukrainian colony and Sevastopol as a temporarily occupied city.

The Rukh caucus has demanded that Symonenko be stripped of his parliamentary immunity and prosecuted.

It also called for the dismissal of parliamentary speaker Oleksander Moroz and his first deputy, Oleksander Tkachenko, for "turning a blind eye to the anti-state activities of some deputies."

Tabachnyk targeted by Marchuk supporters

(The Rukh Insider)—Beginning with the new session of parliament in September, the Kyiv-based "Ukrainian Perspective" fund has opened up a full-scale assault on Dmytro Tabachnyk, the head of the President's Administration.

A brochure published by the fund dated Oct. 21 and entitled "Dmytro Tabachnyk's 'Swan' Song," alleges that Tabachnyk interceded on behalf of one A. Tanasevsky, who participated on Aug. 10, 1994 in an assault on a Crimea-based insurance company "Centurion" in which two company staff were killed and several other individuals injured.

Tanasevsky, who was sentenced to death by firing squad, had served in the 14th Russian Army, stationed in Moldova.

Apparently, the Army's former commander and until recently Russia's national security supremo, Oleksandr Lebed, personally requested Tabachnyk that Tanasevsky's case be reviewed.

Tabachnyk accordingly wrote a letter to the Chairman of Ukraine's Supreme Court. The death sentence was not rescinded.

Another of the fund's bulletins, entitled "The Affairs of the Head of L. Kuchma's Administration or How Dmytro Tabachnyk Ruled Ukraine," purports to demonstrate how Tabachnyk has attempted to intercede in all aspects of governing in Ukraine.

Yet the attacks say more about the "Ukrainian Perspective" fund than about Tabachnyk's goings on, which are hardly a secret. According to members of parliament who participated in a high-level meeting with the President on June 24, Kuchma revealed that "Ukrainian Perspective" is funded by Yevhen Marchuk, the former KGB chief, fired by Kuchma from the post of Prime Minister last June.

Marchuk is currently a direct opponent of Kuchma's, since the two have both stated publicly that they will run for President in October, 1999.

As Marchuk supporters, "Ukrainian Perspective" and its President Serhiy Odarych have apparently decided that Marchuk's presidential campaign strategy at this early stage depends on the removal from Kuchma's entourage of his most loyal and most effective supporter — Tabachnyk.

It was Tabachnyk, who, in 1994, assured Kuchma of victory against incumbent Kravchuk by setting up a highly effective regional network of campaign representatives. These representatives, among other things, worked alongside regional officials to assure that the latter campaigned on behalf of Kuchma, and not Kravchuk. As a result, campaign literature printed by Kravchuk at government cost and sent to regional governments for distribution sat locked away while, particularly in the heavily populated more Russified East, regional officials helped distribute an anti-Kravchuk poster which depicted him "giving the finger" to voters.

Kuchma, however, is well aware of Tabachnyk's effectiveness and the campaign mounted against his aide is unlikely to result in his dismissal. In the meantime, the "Ukrainian Perspective" publications have taken on the character of a vendetta, with three sets of materials attacking Tabachnyk distributed in the past month. The last included copies of Tabachnyk's book "Ukraine on the Threshold of the XXI Century" with a photocopy of a picture of Tabachnyk at a social function smoking a cigar, holding a drink and with half-closed eyes glued to the inside of the front cover.

Jews praise Ukraine

(RFE/RL)—Jewish activists from Russia and the newly-independent states have told an American human rights organization that some of the new countries were working hard to protect human rights but many were failing to live up to their obligations.

As a result, the organization, the Union of Councils for Soviet Jews, says Jewish emigration continues at the pace of the last several years. Roughly, 100,000 Jews left the former Soviet Union in 1993 and 1994, 85,874 left in 1995, and some 69,150 left in the first nine months of 1996.

Speaking to the annual meeting of the Councils, activists from the seven bureaus that body maintains in the post-Soviet states suggested that the status of Jews varies ever more widely among the 15 former republics.

These activists singled out Ukraine for particular praise for Kyiv's openness in dealing with Jewish groups and willingness to work on problems in that country.

Remains of missing MiG found

(INFOBANK/OMRI)—A search team has found fragments of the Ukrainian Air Force MiG-29 that disappeared from radar on Oct. 31 after taking off from Kirovsk airfield in east-central Crimea, international agencies reported on Nov. 18.

Some parts of the fighter jet, including the right wing flap, were found by fishermen 400 metres off the coast near Yevpatoria. According to the investigation commission, the plane is on the bottom of the sea.

The exact cause of the crash — the third this year in Ukraine involving a Soviet-made MiG-29 — is still unknown.

But one of the commission's theories is that the plane hit an unidentified object over the Dzankoi area, causing the pilot's injury or even death.

This version is confirmed by information released by the Crimean observatory which says that a meteorite rain was taking place in the area at the time of the accident.

Following the loss of control, the plane began to fly southward until it fell into the sea.

Military officials say the pilot was a top-class professional.

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Віктор Бикодір

(КБУВ)—Слухання справи весь час відкладається у зв'язку з хворобою лідера розпущеного галузевого робітничого комітету об'єднання «Донецьквугілля» Михайла Крилова.

Тим часом комуністи Донбасу через своїх численних представників у парляменті спробували скористатися з цієї ситуації й подали на розгляд у Верховній Раді законопроєкт про амністію організаторам масових безпорядків під час страйку (тоді, як відомо, довкола Донецька блькувався рух автомобільного та залізничного транспорту).

Хоч ішлося про півтора десятки осіб, Верховна Рада «не клюнула» на комуністичну наживку. Противники поспішної амністії заявили: вони теж здатні на милосердя, але, перш ніж милувати, організатори незаконних акцій мають пройти через суд. Щоб міра відповідальности була засторогою від подібного в майбутньому.

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Роковини «октябрьской революції» стали в Україні новим наступом на владу

Андрій Шевченко

(КБУВ)—На шостому році української незалежности 79-річниця жовтневого перевороту в Петербурзі залишається державним святом. З'ясувалося, що у Верховній Раді недостатньо голосів, щоб внести відповідні зміни у законодавство. Тому вихідний день сьомого листопада чимало українців розпочали на вулицях, хоча святом воно, очевидно, для них не було.

Протестували і під червоними прапорами, і під синьо-жовтими. Ліві таврували владу за пограбування народу і підтвердили, що все ще пам'ятають слова «Інтернаціоналу». А націонал-демократи, які відзначали день скорботи за жертвами комуністичного режиму, закидали владі непослідовність реформ та безнаціональність.

Всі незмінні учасники *deja vu*, в яке давно перетворилися радянські свята, успішно підтвердили своє реноме. Міліція зберегла від зустрічі дві колони, що пройшли вже звичними маршрутами в Києві. Націонал-демократи вшанували пам'ять Шевченка й патріарха Володимира, лідери лівих окружними шляхами добралися таки з квітами до пам'ятника Леніну. А «нічий» Хрещатик залишився доказом цнотливості й нейтральності влади.

Щоправда, елемент новизни внесли розмови про майбутні вибори — як парляментські, так і президентські. Лідер Руху В'ячеслав Чорновіл пообіцяв зайнятися створенням демократичної коаліції до виборів у Верховну Раду. Ліві звинуватили владу в намаганні, посваривши їх між собою, вибити їхнього кандидата з президентського марафону. А спікер парляменту Олександр Мороз, заявивши, що на можливих претендентів уже почали тиснути, нагадав про необхідність прийняття нового закону про вибори на пропорційній основі.

Друге, на що звернули увагу спостерігачі, — це дедалі активніші вимоги зміни керівництва держави. Причому, якщо у Києві говорили відносно зрівноважено, закликаючи до перевиборів і Президента, і Верховної Ради одразу після прийняття нового виборчого закону, то у Донецьку й Криму вимагали негайної відставки київської влади і кардинальної зміни державного курсу, а в Харкові нинішнього й колишнього Президентів разом з кількома урядовцями оголосили персонами нон-грата.

Багатьох у червонопрапорні колони приводить пам'ять чи небажання міняти погляди. Проте, значно побільшало й тих, кого економічна скрута поставила на межу виживання і для кого приречений протест став сенсом життя. Соціологи кажуть, що сьогодні владі довіряє не більше двадцяти відсотків українців і майже кожен другий бажає повернення соціялізму. Хоча в реальність повороту колеса історії навряд чи хтось вірить.

Водночас стає дедалі очевиднішим: красномовні виступи на велелюдних мітинґах сьогодні приречені на політичну імпотенцію, бо навряд чи впливають на реальну політику. Адже незмінні наміри об'єднуватися зводяться нанівець амбіціями й відмінністю інтересів лідерів, а для наділених реальною владою мітинґове багатослів'я служить лише вигідним тлом.

Хоча, може, мають рацію й ті, хто каже, що традиційні шоу на честь радянських свят містять цінний виховний момент. Бо хоч у такий спосіб у пересічного українця все ще може з'явитися відчуття причетності до політики держави.

***

Як свідчать соціольогічні дослідження, нині радянське свято «великого жовтня» визнають 60 відсотків жителів Сходу, Півдня України та Криму, 38 відсотків киян, 9 відсотків жителів західноукраїнських областей. Це переважно люди старшого віку. Шанують цю дату переважно за можливість відпочити, зустрітися з рідними та друзями. І лише 3 відсотки ходять на мітинґи та демонстрації, де опиняється «по різні боки барикад».

Вбивство відомого чеченського барда

Ігор Столяров

(Прес-Центр «Південь»)—Представник президента Чеченської республіки Ічкерія в Україні Білан Мурзабеков, в інтерв'ю кореспондентові радіо Свобода заявив, що досить можливою є версія, щодо організації звірячого вбивства в Одесі відомого чеченського барда та громадського діяча Імама Алімсултанова, представниками російських спецслужб.

Для розслідування вбивства в Одесі сформовано оперативну групу за участю працівників генеральної прокуратури України. Керівництво Конґресу вайнахів України вже провело ряд зустрічей та переговорів з прокурором Одеської області Василем Івановим та мером Одеси, народним депутатом України Едуардом Гурвіцем.

За словами представника Президента Чеченської республіки Ічкерія в Україні Білана Мурзабекова, останнім часом в Україні, в наслідок різних обставин, зокрема вбивств, трагічно загинули дев'ять громадян Чеченської республіки. Для розслідування причин трагедій в Україні буде створено координаційну раду за участю відомих громадських і політичних діячів України та Чечні.

Ввечері, 8 листопада на квартирі в Одесі групою невідомих було розстріляно чеченського барда та громадського діяча Імама Алімсултанова і двох його музичних асистентів.

Із заявами протесту з приводу подій в Одесі вже виступили Конгрес Українських Націоналістів, об'єднання Державна Самостійність України та київське відділення Антибільшовицького Блоку Народів.

Спроба залякання українського активіста

(Прес-Центр «Південь»)—2-го листопада на помешкання українського активіста Петра Чернишука в м. Білгород-Дністровський, Одеська область, завітали працівники правоохоронних органів районного центру. Міліціянти доставили Петра Чернишука до райвідділу міліції де відбулася його бесіда з начальником РВВС.

Начальник районного відділу Внутрішніх справ інкремінував Чернишуку організацію акцій «грумління» над пам'ятником вождеві більшовицького пролетаріяту Владімірем Леніним. Після бесіди Петра Чернишука було затримано і його протримали ніч з суботи на неділю у камері попереднього ув'язнення.

За словами Петра Чернишука — «під час перебування у РВВС на його адресу лунали погрозу з боку працівників міліції».

Протест «з приводу глумління над пам'ятником Леніну» висловила районна організація Компартії України.

Вранці в неділю Петра Чернишука було звільнено, але в понеділок 4-го листопада його забов'язано знову з'явитися на бесіду до Білгород-Дністровського РВВС.

Асоціяція «Нюрнберг-2» плянує провести з'їзд

(РУХ-Прес)—14 листопада відбулося засідання президії всеукраїнської асоціяції «Нюрнберг-2». Зроблено підсумки піврічної діяльности, визначено основні напрямки подальшої роботи. Члени президії визнали за необхідне найближчим часом провести з'їзд асоціяції.

Голова асоціяції, народний депутат Левко Лук'яненко склав свої повноваження у зв'язку з погіршенням стану здоров'я. Новим головою «Нюрнбергу-2» став голова Всеукраїнського товариства «Меморіял» імені Василя Стуса, народний депутат Лесь Танюк. Заступниками голови обрані Євген Пронюк та Олександр Нечипоренко.

До асоціяції входять Рух, УРП, ДемПУ, ХДПУ, товариство «Просвіта», Конгрес української інтелігенції, Всесвітнє українське козацтво, «Меморіял», Всеукраїнське товариство політв'язнів та репресованих та інші політичні та громадські організації.

Основним завданням асоціяції є підготовка і проведення міжнародного суду над компартією за злочини, скоєні комуністичними режимами проти людства і людяності.

Як ставитися до російської мови

(КБУВ)—Вибіркове соціольогічне опитування народних депутатів України, представників урядових та керівних виконавчих структур, партійних лідерів, керівників силових відомств та засобів масової інформації щодо статусу російської мови в Україні дало такі результати:

24 відсотки опитаних воліють надати російській мові статус офіційної мови на всій території України, 17,5 відсотка — другої державної мови поряд з українською, 24 відсотки — офіційної мови в регіонах, де переважає російськомовне населення, 34,5 відсотка вважають, що російська мова в Україні не повинна мати ніякого статусу.

Дослідження провів Київський центр політичних досліджень та конфліктології.

EBRD to help finance Chornobyl closure

By Stuart Parrott

(RFE/RL) — A fund set up by the Western countries to upgrade safety at nuclear reactors in the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe is giving US$150 million to finance safety improvements at the Chornobyl power plant.

The grant is part of the international effort to close Chornobyl by the year 2000. The money will be used to finance decommissioning facilities and short-term safety measures.

The grant agreement was signed in London Nov. 12 by Victor Chebrov, chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee on the use of Nuclear Energy, and Serhiy Parashyn, director of the Chornobyl plant for the Ukrainian side.

The grant will come from a multilateral fund administered by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD).

Joachim Jahnke, deputy vice president of the EBRD, said: "This is a very concrete step by the Ukrainian government and the international community towards the closure of Chornobyl."

The fund is administered by the EBRD on behalf of 15 contributors in Western Europe, North America and Japan. It has so far committed $320 million for projects in Bulgaria, Lithuania, Russia and Ukraine.

The grant will fund the safe storage of spent fuel assemblies from Chornobyl, and will be used to improve safety measures at reactor Number Three, which may be restarted soon prior to closure.

An EBRD statement said the grant will also fund a radioactive waste-treatment facility to treat a backlog of nuclear waste now stored in unsafe conditions at the station.

The nuclear safety project will be implemented by the Chornobyl plant management which will set up a project team including international experts in engineering, planning and procurement.

More than 50 percent of the work will be done by Ukrainian enterprises. Procurement of equipment for the project will be through open tendering by firms from donor and eastern countries.

The Ukrainian government, the G7 countries and the EU signed an agreement in December last year to provide $350 million to improve the safety and decommission the Chornobyl power plant.

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Ukraine hopes new Romanian government will recognize borders

(JF Monitor)—Ukrainian Foreign Ministry envoy for special assignments Volodymyr Vasilenko stated Nov. 19 that Kyiv hopes for Romanian recognition of Ukraine's territorial integrity following the election of Emil Constantinescu as Romanian president.

Vasilenko noted that Constantinescu's campaign emphasized the goal of Romania's early accession to NATO and the European Union as a high priority.

The two organizations require countries aspiring for membership to drop territorial claims on their neighbors and to sign treaties of good-neighborly relations, Vasilenko pointed out.

He expressed hope that Bucharest would now move "as expeditiously as possible" to recognize Ukraine's borders and finalize the negotiations toward a bilateral political treaty. Also on Nov. 19, Ukraine's first deputy foreign minister, Anton Buteyko, speaking to the North Atlantic Assembly, expressed hope for an improvement in relations with Romania.

But Buteyko asked NATO to defer consideration of Romania's accession to the alliance pending Bucharest's recognition of Ukraine's borders in a bilateral treaty.

The Western-oriented Constantinescu and his Democratic Convention defeated incumbent president Ion Iliescu and his leftist coalition in this month's presidential and parliamentary elections.

Bucharest until now has directly or indirectly affirmed its perceived title to parts of Bessarabia, Bukovyna and to Serpents' Island, which have been part of Ukraine since the dissolution of the USSR.

Negotiations toward a Ukrainian-Romanian bilateral treaty are stalled over Bucharest's demand that the document reflect its position on those territories.

Reactor No. 3 may restart, No. 1 to shut down

(OMRI)—Ukrainian nuclear authorities prepared plans to restart Chornobyl reactor No. 2, which was shut down in 1991 after a fire incident, international media reported on Nov. 14.

Valeriy Idelson, spokesman for Chornobyl, told Reuters that technical documents have been sent for approval to the Ukrainian government.

Chornobyl reactors 1 and 3 still function and contribute five percent of Ukraine's electricity.

Ukraine promised to close reactor No. 1 on Nov. 30 and to close the entire plant by 2000 in return for US$3.1 billion in grants and credits from G-7 countries.

Ukrainian officials say the country faces severe energy shortages and complain Western help is coming too slow.

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IMF declines comment on Yushchenko's remarks

By Robert Lyle

(RFE/RL)—Officials at the International Monetary Fund (IMF) declined to comment Nov. 19 on Ukrainian Central Bank Governor Victor Yushchenko's remarks that the IMF will accept a higher budget deficit next year if the government will push a deregulation and tax cut package through parliament.

In an interview with the "London Financial Times," Yushchenko is quoted as saying that IMF officials will accept a 1997 Ukrainian budget deficit of four percent of gross domestic product rather than the 2.3 percent target of this year as part of the reform package attached to a three-year extended facility loan from the fund.

Ukraine is currently in the final months of a regular one-year stand-by loan from the fund and has been negotiating a longer extended credit of around US$3 billion to be finalized by next February. IMF officials will say only that the fund and Ukraine are "working toward that end."

IMF Managing Director Michel Camdessus personally talked with Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma by telephone the previous week, but details of their discussions were not revealed.

Yushchenko said the aim of the plan with the IMF is to create the conditions for growth in a low-savings, high interest-rate economy.

He said the government would draw up a deregulatory package affecting about 97 laws, including making business registration simpler and closing tax loopholes.

He said Ukraine will need another $1 billion next year in external finance which it hopes to get from other Western organizations and nations.

Crimea suspends Kyiv ban

(OMRI)—The Crimean parliament suspended an order issued by the Ukrainian Justice Ministry's main directorate in Crimea disbanding local parties registered under Crimean law, UNIAR reported on Nov. 6.

The parliament ruled Crimean parties could resume their activities according to the Crimean law on public associations.

The head of the Ukrainian Justice Ministry's directorate, Yevhen Skisov, said only Ukraine's Constitutional Court could suspend the decisions of the ministry.

Last month, the Crimean parliament declared the Ministry's ban unconstitutional and expressed lack of confidence in Skisov.

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Stories credited to "JF Monitor" or "JF Prism" are published by the Jamestown Foundation in Washington. They are available by e-mail. In order to subscribe to the list, send a message to "jf-monitor-request@andrew.cais.com" and put the word "subscribe" and your e-mail address in the body of the text.

UKRAINIAN NEWS
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Proprietor: Ukrainian News Publishers Ltd.

Publisher: Edmonton Lasergraphics, A Division of Canadian Cryptics Ltd.
President: Marco Levytsky

Editor: Marco Levytsky
Hon. Kyiv Bureau Chief: Vitaliy Shevchenko
Typesetting & Layout: Irena Hladki
Advertising & Circulation: Alexandra Cybulsky

Ukrainian News is published bi-weekly by *Edmonton Lasergraphics, A Division of Canadian Cryptics Ltd.* under contract with *Ukrainian News Publishers Ltd.* Yearly subscription $30.00. All rights reserved. The material in this paper cannot be reproduced in any shape or form without written permission from the publisher. The opinions expressed in the articles do not necessarily reflect those of the proprietor, publisher, or editorial board.

Редактор: Марко Левицький
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Мистецька підготовка: Ірена Гладкі
Оголошення і розповсюд.: Оля Цибульська

Українські Вісті видає дво-тижнево *Едмонтон Лайзергрефикс, Відділ Кенейдієн Криптикс Лтд.* під контрактом із видавцями *Українські Вісті Лтд.* Річна передплата $30.00. Всі права застережені. Не можна репродукувати ніяких матеріялів без писаного дозволу видавця. Опінії висловлені в статтях не все відповідають опінії власника, видавця чи редакційної ради.

Foreign investment crucial to breaking Russia's hold

It is a severe strain on any country's national sovereignty to be almost totally dependent upon another for its energy supplies. This is even more serious when the dependent country is Ukraine and the one with the energy is Russia, whose politicians insist on making territorial claims upon Ukraine and use this energy source as a club with which to beat Ukraine *into submission.*

Since gaining independence five years ago, one of the biggest, if not the biggest problems facing the nation has been energy — particularly in the oil and gas sector. Ukraine consumes over 40 million tons of oil yearly, but produces just over four million tons. This deficit is covered almost totally by imports from Russia and has created a huge debt. Kyiv may look to alternative sources of oil, such as the Middle East, but the key to overcoming this problem is becoming energy self-sufficient.

As insurmountable as this target may seem, it is nevertheless feasible. It calls for the 20/20 solution — reducing Ukraine's annual oil consumption to 20 million tons a year and raising domestic production to the same level. Both of these are possible. Ukraine's outdated industrial plants are grossly inefficient and a massive reconstruction could eventually bring consumption down to half its current level. Similarly, the country holds quite substantial oil and gas reserves. It just doesn't have the technology and expertise to fully develop them.

In both cases foreign investment is needed. And this foreign investment will soon be showing some very concrete results. Calgary-based Epic Energy's drilling program is estimated bring about an increase of 635,000 tons a year when fully on stream. This is an increase of 15 percent over Ukraine's projected 1996 production of 4.165 million tons. If that's the kind of difference that one company, drilling just on the Kerch Peninsula of Crimea, can make, then look at the potential in the rest of Crimea, the Carpathian Basin, the Dnipro-Donetsk Basin and the Black and Azov Sea Shelves.

Canadians are playing a key role in the development of Ukraine's oil and gas sector. Through a fortunate twist of history Canada's main oil producing region also happens to be the site of the largest concentration of Ukrainian emigration anywhere outside the former USSR. It is no surprise, therefore, that many of the key players in the development of Ukraine's resources are themselves of Ukrainian origin. One such example is Epic Energy President Ron Cormick, whose family (original name Kostenuk) emigrated from Western Ukraine during the pioneer era and homesteaded near Wroxton, Saskatchewan.

The Canadian connection has also been significant because of the close relations between the Calgary and the Houston oil patches. Many Canadian partners in joint ventures with Ukraine have substantial U.S. capital. They have also led the way in sparking interest in Ukraine and now several major U.S. firms are also looking at possibilities.

But there are still some major obstacles which stand in the way of this badly-needed investment. Ukraine's post-communist bureaucracy is, by now, legendary. Then there is the "onerous" tax structure which has been a major complaint of virtually every company working on developing a joint venture.

Apparently, this is about to change. Ukraine is working on developing a new financial structure for oil and gas development and has invited representatives of British Petroleum to participate in the process.

If so, this is indeed welcome news. It is in Ukraine's crucial interests to make the changes necessary to attract the investment it needs — investment which is out there and waiting.

And this investment is what can ultimately break Ukraine's dependency on Russia — with all the inherent dangers this brings — once and for all.

Сицилізація по–українськи

Убивство Щербаня: виклик суспільству чи владі?

Андрій Шевченко

(КБУВ)—Убивства на замовлення вражати уяву українців перестали давно. Проте побоїще в донецькому аеропорту, подробиці якого і далі з'ясовуються, — безпрецендентне за зухвалістю.

3–го листопада опівдні депутата Верховної Ради і одного з найвпливовіших українських підприємців Євгена Щербаня було розстріляно з автоматів біля трапу літака, яким він щойно повернувся з Москви. Очевидці стверджують, що, коли жертва зійшла на землю, троє злочинців відкрили вогонь з автомобіля, який стояв прямо на льотному полі. Щербань, уже поранений, кинувся до свого «Лінкольна», але двоє вбивців у льотній формі, вискочивши з машини, розстріляли його просто впритул. Дружина депутата Надія, по якій, схоже, стріляли теж зумисно, померла по дорозі в лікарню. Син Руслан уцілів лише тому, що кинувся на землю і перекочувався попід машинами. Вбито авіятехніка і ще кількох чоловік поранено. Випустивши чергу по вікнах аеропорту, вбивці зникли на машині, яку пізніше знайшли спаленою.

Досі не зрозуміло, як вбивцям вдалося проїхати у закриту частину аеропорту, яку, до речі, арендує одна з фірм Євгена Щербаня, а потім безперешкодно втекти. За деякою інформацією, гільзи, знайдені на місці злочину, підходять до автоматів, якими озброєні спецпідрозділи в кількох пострадянських країнах. Правоохоронці не сумніваються, що це вбивство на замовлення, хоча хто ним керував — політика чи кримінал — сказати важко.

Євгена Щербаня публічним політиком назвати важко. Мало хто згадав би хоч один його виступ у парляменті, проте він був безсумнівним авторитетом в українському бізнесі. Він очолював транснаціональну корпорацію «Атон», був засновником десятків дрібних підприємств ледве не по всій СНД і вважався одним з найбагатших людей в Україні. Євгена та Володимира Щербанів називали лідерами донецького фінансово–промислового клану і Ліберальної партії, яка обстоює його інтереси, і саме на першого замикалося безліч комерційних зв'язків Донбасу.

Поза сумнівом, Щербань міг стояти поперек дороги багато кому і в Донецьку, і поза ним. Одна з версій пов'язує вбивство з минулорічним вибухом на донецькому стадіоні, яким був розірваний на шмаття авторитетний у кримінальних колах Ахать Брагін, відомий також як Алік Грек. Інші стосуються нинішньої активности Щербаня на паливно–енергетичному та металургійному ринках.

Колеги Щербаня по Ліберальній партії та парляментській фракції «Соціяльно–ринковий вибір», до яких він належав, переконані, що в такий спосіб намагаються не лише послабити позиції партії і донецької групи впливу, а й залякати суспільство в цілому. «Це вбивство — демонстративно–показове. Інакше, як політичним, його назвати не можна — які б не були першопричини», — сказав «Українським вістям» попередній прем'єр Євген Марчук, який віднедавна очолює фракцію «Соціяльно–ринковий вибір», створеної на базі ЛПУ.

Підозрівати у вендеті прибічників Павла Лазаренка, замах на якого пропрем'єрські видання вперто пов'язували з Донбасом і особисто з Євгеном Щербанем, важко, адже банальна логіка одразу вказувала б саме на цей слід. Однак у тому, що вбивство пов'язане саме з непростими стосунками донецького й дніпропетровського угрупувань, переконані більшість товаришів Щербаня. Один з лідерів ЛПУ і народний депутат Михайло Чечетов у інтерв'ю «УВ» назвав останні події провокацією: «Якась третя сила намагається зіштовхнути лобами два потужних і в економічному, і в політичному пляні регіони, щоб вони пішли на самознищення».

Як прихильники, так і опоненти покійного Щербаня погоджуються, що подібні брутальні вбивства в очах світового співтовариства перетворюють Україну на кримінальну державу. З Криму, який давно називають українською Сицилією, постійно надходять звістки про замахи на політиків і підприємців (якщо українську політику й комерцію взагалі можна розділити).

Нещодавно ледве залишився живим мер Севастополя, а загадкове викрадення Євгена Супрунюка спричинило його відставку з поста спікера кримського парляменту. В одному ряду з убивствами Брагіна й Щербаня стоїть смерть Петра Шведченка, вихідця з Донецька й президента корпорації "Itera", що постачає туркменський газ. У Києві дивом уцілів привселюдно розстріляний підприємець і депутат Бортник, а замах на прем'єра Лазаренка досі безуспішно розслідується. Не дивно, що навіть секретар Ради безпеки Володимир Горбулін у розмові з кореспондентом «УВ» засумнівався у дієвості українських правоохоронних органів: «То, може, ми не дійшли до того, щоб розкривати такі вбивства?».

Схоже, сьогодні криміналізація суспільства стає реальною загрозою не лише для окремих громадян, а й для іміджу України в цілому, яку досі вважають чи не найстабільнішою державою СНД. І, очевидно, справа не лише у зрощенні тіньового бізнесу й політики чи нездатності правоохоронців приборкати злочинність (до речі, міністр внутрішніх справ Юрій Кравченко, відставки якого зажадали одразу кілька партій, нібито пообіцяв знайти вбивць Щербаня до кінця місяця). Боротьба з криміналітетом має стати справжнім іспитом для всієї української влади. Якщо вона ще може себе від нього відділити.

Добровільна асиміляція або забиймо нашу культуру!

Деколи приходиться мені чути про те, що асиміляція українців, а особливо молоді, є природним явищем і нічим цьому не заподієш. Кажуть: «Що зробиш — довкола північно–американська культура, ми живемо в англійськомовному суспільстві і тому процес асиміляції є цілком природним».

Недивлячись на те, що можна багато речей сперти на асиміляцію, деколи відповідальність треба брати на себе. Мені здається, що багато з нас, української молоді, часто навіть не усвідомлюємо того, що ми крок за кроком і повсякчасно допомагаємо самі себе асимілювати. Почнемо з наших імен. Багатьом відомо, що в 1950–1960–их роках багато українців, які добивалися до провідних екзекутивних позицій були змушені змінити не тільки свої імена, але й прізвища, щоб вони не мали ніякого «етнічного відтінку». Сьогодні ситуація повністю змінилася і ніхто нікому не закриває кар'єри через відсутність англо–саксонського імени. Проте багато моїх знайомих встидаються або не хочуть вживати своїх українських імен навіть коли перебувають в оточені україномовних друзів. Так замість того, щоб вживати імена Михайло, Марія, Павло, Влодко чи Наталка, вони вже звикли і навіть пропагують себе як Mike, Mary, Paul, Walter (Wally), Nattie. Я розумію, що деколи легше вжити англійський еквівалент як на те є потреба. Але коли навіть серед «своїх» хтось не вживає свого українського імени, то мене аж «шляхи трафляють!» Просто нехочуть, або вже не дбають.

Інший приклад — це вживання української мови. Ми всі знаємо про її занедбання і жалюгідний стан, спираючи це на ту ж асиміляцію. Але коли збирається група людей, кожний з яких менше–більше говорить і розуміє українську мову, найчастіше чомусь вони будуть говорити по–англійськи радше ніж по–українськи. А все тому, що їм не хочеться напружувати свій розмовний інтелект і легше говорит по–англійськи. І от через таких лінюхів (бо вміють же, але не хочуть!) і пропадає українська мова. А можете собі уявити відношення їхніх дітей до тієї ж мови? А ви кажете, що то асиміляція.

Мій останній приклад свідомого «вбивання» української культури серед молоді можна продемонструвати її відношенням до української музики. Нещодавно побував я на забаві організованій одним українським студентським клюбом на сході Канади. Все на цій забаві було українським: і назва оркестри, і її члени, і декілька сот молодих українців у залі. Все крім музики! Уявіть собі, що протягом цілого вечора не прозвучало жодної української пісні або навіть мельодії. І це організовують українські студенти? Та встидайтеся! Мені було встидно не тільки за цю оркестру, але і за всіх присутніх, які, напевно, навіть і не відчули, що щось було не так. А коли хтось з вас чув, щоб під час або після забави молодь співала? Та куди там — ми всі промиваємо наше горло пивом і горілкою, і не чуємо, як плаче наша культура.

А ви кажете: «Асиміляція». Та це ж ми з вами самі закопуємо і задушуємо нашу культуру, а потім кажемо, що винна асиміляція. Хіба ж це не правда?

Джордж Пришитий (Влодко Бойчук)

Battle over Black Sea Fleet continues

BSF talks deadlocked again

By Jan de Weydenthal

(RFE/RL)—The Russia-Ukraine talks on the fate of the Black Sea Fleet are deadlocked, again.

The two countries have bitterly disagreed on the issue ever since the break up of the Soviet Union, with each side claiming ownership rights over ships and maritime bases.

After numerous negotiating sessions Russia's President Boris Yeltsin and his Ukrainian counterpart Leonid Kuchma agreed last year on how the fleet should be divided: it was to be split along an approximate four-to-one ratio in favor of Russia.

This division is being gradually implemented. Most of the vessels have already been appropriated by one or the other maritime force. Nov. 12, the last aviation regiment of the Black Sea Fleet was disbanded at the Oktyabrskoye air base and its 39 fighter planes were divided, with 20 going to Ukraine and 19 to Russia.

But the main stumbling block in all earlier and subsequent negotiations has been the status of the huge naval base in the Crimean city of Sevastopol. Moscow wants to have an unrestricted and sole possession of the base, while Ukraine insists that the base could only be leased to Russia for a specific time.

Nov. 11 the Ukrainian position was reiterated by Deputy Defense Minister Ivan Bizhan, who said at a press briefing in Kyiv that Ukraine could lease part of the Sevastopol port's infrastructure to Russia for "a fixed term" — there have been reports that the term could be 20 years — but would expect Moscow to look to its own Black Sea ports for a permanent headquarters.

On the same day, the Russian Black Sea Fleet command released a statement by Admiral Viktor Kravchenko that Sevastopol should remain the fleet's permanent home base. Kravchenko argued that basing the Russian fleet at Russian Black Sea ports would be logistically difficult because of prevailing adverse "winds" and economically prohibitively expensive.

Last month Yeltsin and Kuchma were reported to have reached an agreement on "all questions" related to the fleet. Russia's Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin was to travel to Kyiv in mid-November to sigh the appropriate accords. And Yeltsin was to make a long-awaited visit to Ukraine formally to sign a basic friendship and cooperation treaty.

But now things have changed dramatically, and none of these visits appears to be in the offing.

Even while Yeltsin was conferring with Kuchma, Moscow mayor Yuri Luzkhov and a group of prominent Russian politicians published an open letter in a Moscow newspaper calling on the Russian government to claim sovereignty over Sevastopol.

On Oct. 23, the Russian State Duma overwhelmingly endorsed a resolution warning that Russia will never cede control over the port city. The resolution said that Sevastopol "was, is and will be the main base of Russia's Black Sea Fleet."

Nov. 12, the Ukrainian Foreign Ministry responded strongly rejecting the Duma's resolution. "Such actions are contrary to the norms of international law and to Russian pledges to respect Ukraine's territorial integrity," the ministry said. And the ministry went on to say that Ukraine would appeal for help to international community to resolve the Black Sea Fleet issue.

The Ukrainian parliament has warned that it could call for the removal of all foreign military forces from Ukraine territory.

Rada considers call for Russian withdrawal

(RFE/RL/UkrNews)—Ukraine's Parliament was scheduled to consider a draft law that deals with the presence of Russian forces in Ukraine, specifically, the Black Sea Fleet, as this issue of Ukrainian News went to press.

The draft proposes the withdrawal of all Russian forces by a specific time, and designates Sevastopol as Ukrainian naval headquarters. The draft also provides for the expulsion from Ukraine of State Duma delegations or other Russian politicians, who question Ukraine's sovereignty over Crimea.

The draft also appeals to President Leonid Kuchma to bring the claim of Sevastopol by some Russian politicians before the U.N. Security Council and the nuclear powers that guaranteed Ukraine's security when Kyiv agreed to surrender its nuclear weapons.

Details on BSF talks revealed

(JF Monitor)—Ukrainian First Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Durdinets, First Deputy Defense Minister Col. Gen. Ivan Bizhan, and other participants in the negotiations with Russia on the Black Sea Fleet have revealed some of the differences that have again led the talks into an impasse.

The Russian side opposes the siting of Ukraine's naval command in Sevastopol, claiming this right exclusively for the Russian command. It would also restrict Ukrainian ships to anchorages in only one bay — Streletskaya — of Sevastopol's five bays, and demands that the coastal infrastructure used by Russian ships be transferred to Russian ownership rather than continuing on the basis of leasing arrangements. The Russian side insists on retaining ground units attached to the fleet above ceilings set by the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty.

The Ukrainian side argues that the siting of its own naval command in Sevastopol and national ownership of the coastal infrastructure to be leased to Russia are non-negotiable prerogatives of state sovereignty. Kyiv calls for the removal of those Russian ground units that exceed CFE limits. It also wants the bilateral agreements on the status of the Russian fleet and naval bases in Ukraine to stipulate maximum force ceilings, and also a mechanism for their rotation, in order to prevent ceiling breaches.

Ukraine proposes to charge rent totaling between US$1.4 billion and $2.1 billion annually, depending on the aggregate size of the land and water areas to be leased to the Russian fleet. With its coastal facilities, that fleet currently occupies 46,000 hectares of Ukrainian territory, much of it expensive Crimean land. Ukraine is willing to deduct the value of the rent from its debts to Russia, or to accept deliveries of Russian natural gas as counting toward the rent during the 20-year leasing period.

Officials in Kyiv point out that Ukraine has "reached the limit of concessions" after having consented in earlier stages of the negotiations to a lopsided partition of the fleet in Russia's favor instead of declaring it Ukrainian property, and of having accepted the principle of long-term leasing of bases instead of setting a more stringent timetable for the Russian fleet's withdrawal. The officials are at the same time concerned that the prospect of anticipated presidential elections in Russia — even after Boris Yeltsin's apparently successful heart surgery — is forcing Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to adopt a rigid stance on the fleet and other unresolved issues in Russian-Ukrainian relations.

Ukraine, Russia on the brink of armed conflict, says URP

(INFOBANK)—Recent actions by Russian politicians are pushing Ukraine and Russia to the brink of armed conflict, says the chairman of Ukrainian Republican Party.

Speaking at a Nov. 13 press conference in Kyiv, Bohdan Yaroshinsky said these include the Russian Duma's draft laws claiming jurisdiction over Sevastopol, suspending the division of the Black Sea Fleet and provocative statements by top Moscow officials.

He called for a reorganization of Ukraine's armed forces to counter this threat.

The mayor of Sevastopol also raised the spectre of armed conflict.

"Ukraine will never give over Sevastopol in a peaceful way, likewise, Russia will never withdraw her fleet in a peaceful way", said Victor Semenov at a Nov. 14 press conference.

He added that the future Russian-Ukrainian treaty on the division of the Black Sea fleet should contain Russian commitments to provide partial financing for the city's budget.

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Kyiv ponders appeal for international support

(JF Monitor)—Ukrainian Foreign Ministry leaders said Nov. 12 that Kyiv would, if necessary, turn to the international community, and specifically to permanent members of the UN Security Council and to the OSCE, with a request to protect Ukraine's territorial integrity.

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Hennadiy Udovenko and his first deputy, Anton Buteiko, stated that the Duma's two bills and the deadlock in the fleet talks could impel Ukraine to appeal to the U.S. in its capacity as a co-guarantor of Ukraine's independence, territorial integrity, and inviolability of its borders. Udovenko and Buteiko recalled that the U.S., Britain, France, and Russia had extended those written guarantees in 1994, in connection with Ukraine's renunciation of its nuclear arsenal and its accession to the nuclear nonproliferation treaty.

Chernomyrdin postpones visit

(OMRI)—Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Mikhail Demurin said on Nov. 12 that Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's planned mid-November visit to Kyiv would be postponed until "the documents that must be prepared for his visit are ready," ITAR-TASS reported.

The announcement came after Russian and Ukrainian negotiators failed to resolve differences over the terms under which the Russian portion of the Black Sea Fleet will lease facilities in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol.

The postponement continues a well-established pattern in which Ukrainian and Russian leaders publicly announce the resolution of the fleet dispute, but disputed details block final agreement.

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New book graphically illustrates sufferings of Ukrainian nation

By Marco Levytsky

In 1939, before the outbreak of World War II, Kharkiv had a population of 833,000. It had witnessed years of Stalinist terror during which people were arrested, deported or executed for holding beliefs contrary to those of the Stalinist establishment. Among those to perish were the intellectual and artistic élite, people known personally by Olena Zvychaina. These years of terror during the interwar period became the subject of most of Olena Zvychaina's work in the West. The one exception is The Golden Stream Out of Hungry Kharkiv, which takes place during the war.

This story, it seems, happened either to somebody very close to Zvychaina, or perhaps to Zvychaina herself. Nevertheless, the traumas and tragedies of the Stalinist years, compounded by the atrocities of World War II, had a searing effect on Zvychaina. She became a recluse.

Kharkiv was occupied by the Germans on Oct. 25, 1941, and they held the city for 22 months. The city they conquered was in ruins. The retreating Red Army had destroyed all the power stations, water supply systems, railways and other transportation and communication facilities. 400,000 people were evacuated from Kharkiv to Southern Asia for the duration of the war. The thousands who were held in NKVD prisons for political, social, religious and other beliefs were executed.

During the first three months of 1942, the period during which the bulk of the story takes place, it is estimated that 14,000 people died of starvation. The Nazis also started their own terror campaign, executing real and supposed Ukrainian nationalists, along with supporters of the precious régime and Jews. By the time the Soviet army retook Kharkiv, a further 100,000 people had been exterminated by the Nazis and their supporters. The Germans also transported 60,000 people to work in the forced labor camps in Germany.

Zvychaina's "Kharkiv", which has been translated into English by J. Zurowsky, and published by Ethnic Enterprises Publishing Division of Summerland, B.C., tells the story of Katrusia, a young Kharkivite, whose husband disappeared after being impressed into a forced labour brigade and who must now struggle to feed both herself and her unborn child. In stark and graphic terms the book describes the terrible effects hunger has on its victims and the degradation and loss of human dignity that accompanies it. It is a tale which graphically illustrates this period of Ukrainian history and, in fact, many periods for the suffering nation which experienced famines throughout.

Zvychaina never did complete the book and the publishers decided to leave the translation without an ending as well in order to preserve the work's integrity. Although this leaves the reader guessing as to how the story may end, it nevertheless provides an authentic quality to the work, much as in the case of the "Diary of Ann Frank".

"Kharkiv" is a change of pace for Ethnic Enterprises, which are best noted for author Danny Evanishen's translations of Ukrainian folk tales like "Zhabka" and the "Raspberry Hut". But it is nevertheless a compelling read.

For more information about "Kharkiv" and other publications by Ethnic Enterprises, please see their flyer which is included with this issue of Ukrainian News.

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PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW

The pagan fire deity makes a dramatic entrance in a scene from the "Times of Change" segment from Vohon's "Beyond the Boundaries" performance.

Vohon blazes with colour

By Marco Levytsky

With exhilarating colour and electrifying movement, Edmonton's Vohon Ukrainian Dance Ensemble fired up the 2,000 members of the audience who witnessed their "Beyond the Boundaries" performance at the Northern Jubilee Auditorium, Nov. 3.

The show, which they have already taken to Australia and California, as well as Prince George, B.C., Lethbridge, Grande Prairie, and is scheduled to be performed in Yellowknife, N.W.T., Nov. 22-23, is a fiery spectacle of color and magic.

Particularly impressive are the special effects which liven up Act 2 — "Times of Change".

This story, which recreates the pagan deities of pre-Christian Ukraine includes many memorable and thrilling moments. Of particular note are the spectacular effects which accompany the portrayal of Perun, god of thunder, whose presence is announced in a cacophony of thunder and lightning, or the visually stunning appearance of the water god who rises imposingly from a well to tower over the storyteller who acts as the narrative link.

Much imagination went into the costumes, designed by Ina Kachmar, Chris Litvinchuk and Debbie Kachmar, and produced by those three with the assistance of Paulette Nestorowich, Joanne Palylyk and Sharyn Sadownik. These add immensely to the quality of the production.

Ron Cahute's musical arrangements combine traditional melodies with a upbeat tempo which brings an added rhythmic dimension to the production.

If there is one criticism, it's that the Hopak finale, which is performed with Vohon's breathless and show-stopping style, should not be linked with the pre-Christian first half of Act 2 as it is in the program. The implication is that in celebration of their conversion to Christianity, Ukrainians dance the Hopak.

In fact, the Hopak is a dance which originated in the cossack period of Ukraine, which began five centuries after the advent of Christianity and thus has no logical link with the first half of the second act. It would have been far better to present the Hopak and Times of Change as two separate entities.

This is particularly noticeable since the first act is separated into two sections (Pryvit and The Spirit of Dance), even though those two are very effectively linked into one entity. After finishing the Pryvit, out comes Vohon's Artistic Director Ken Kachmar as sounds of applause are heard from behind the stage and the dancers take their bows to the imaginary audience at the back.

This very smoothly affects the transition into the second part of the first act which is the story of a dancer who, after failing to make the cut at a rehearsal, meets a kind spirit who offers him dancing boots. As he takes an adventurous trip through the past, he eventually discovers that the secret of dance lies within his own heart.

On a similar note, an otherwise excellent lyrical number about the mavky (wood nympths) who appear prominently in Ukrainian folklore and literature, is marred by historical inconsistency. Again it is the cossacks who appear with them, even though this again is supposed to be pre-Christian Ukraine. This can be very easily corrected by dressing up the males in simple peasant costumes based upon any of the many dramatic presentations of Lesia Ukrainka's classic Lisova Pisnia (Song of the Forest) which, in fact, is the story of the love affair between a mavka and a peasant boy.

Historical observations aside, the production is rich in color, vibrancy and pure energy. Beyond the Boundaries blazes new directions for Vohon who, through a skillful blending of Ukrainian folk dance, ballet, modern and jazz dance, ignite the stage with their presence.

PHOTO — MARCO LEVYTSKY

Vohon performing the Hopak

PHOTO — ROMAN PETRIW

Vohon performing the Pryvit

Crimean Tatar leader seeks assistance for resettlement

By Charles Recknagel

(RFE/RL)—A top Crimean Tatar official says Ukraine is unable to finance the resettlement of ethnic Tatars to their Crimean homeland and has called on other countries to help fund the effort

Mustafa Jemilev, president of the Crimean Tatar Mejlis made the call Nov. 13 at the start of a week-long visit to Washington. He told RFE/RL that if other countries do not help, they risk an increase in ethnic tensions between thousands of Tatar returnees still living in temporary squatter camps in Crimea and the peninsula's majority ethnic Russian population.

Jemilev told our correspondent that budget problems in Kyiv have reduced available funds for resettling ethnic Tatars in Crimea almost yearly since the Tatars began returning there with the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. The Crimean Tatars were accused by Stalin of supporting the Nazis during the second world war and deported in 1944 en masse to Central Asia, principally Uzbekistan.

According to Jemilev, about half of Crimea's 250,000 Tatars remain in temporary encampments with no employment, no running water, and unsanitary conditions. But he says funds for resettling the Tatars this year are just 12 percent of what they were in 1992, and amount to just one percent of what he estimates is needed.

Jemilev said that to date no countries other than Ukraine have contributed to the resettlement. He called on Russia in particular to share the burden of rehousing returning Tatars because "Moscow bears the responsibility of having deported the Crimean Tatars from their historical homeland." The Tatars arrived in Crimea as part of the Mongol expansion across Central Asia in the 13th century and held it until it was incorporated into Imperial Russia in the 18th century.

The Crimean Tatar official also urged Uzbekistan to offer financial help to Tatars still living in that country and who want to return to Crimea. He estimated that a quarter of a million ethnic Crimean Tatars still live in Uzbekistan from among the descendants of the 200,000 to 250,000 people deported by Stalin. Analysts say that lack of statistical records make it difficult to know precisely how many Crimean Tatars were deported and remain scattered across Central Asia.

Jemilev warned that lack of progress in resettling Tatars returning to Crimea has made the peninsula "a flashpoint for conflict" by aggravating misunderstandings between them and the majority ethnic Russian population.

He notes that many Russians who were encouraged during the 1950's to move to Crimea, and who occupied houses once owned by deported Tatars, incorrectly fear the Tatars now want to reclaim their original homes.

"We are not asking for the return of confiscated houses because we understand people living in our houses have nowhere to go," Jemilev told RFE/RL. "But we do need money to build new homes for ourselves."

With no money to start new housing construction, patience is running out on all sides. Four years ago, Tatars living in squatter camps around the Crimean capital of Simferopol launched a series of street protests demanding better conditions. Last summer, a protest by Tatar merchants against what they called persistent extortion by Crimean criminal groups and lack of business opportunities set off a riot in which two people were killed and some 15 injured.

"It is a very dangerous situation," says Jemilev, because "if the basic problems are not solved no-one can guarantee civic peace."

Newsbriefs

NBU to prop up hryvnia

(OMRI)—Ukrainian National Bank Director Viktor Yushchenko has said the devaluation of the national currency has ended, Ukrainian TV reported on Nov. 19. He noted that the bank will intervene to support the exchange rate against the dollar because if the hryvnia falls below 1.9 to US$1, inflation will soar. The new currency was introduced in early September. It had devalued by seven percentage points at the end of October, following nearly two months of stability.

Tax collectors don't cover own budgets

(INFOBANK—Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko says he is not satisfied with the performance of the Dnipropetrovsk, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kyiv City and Crimean tax administrations. Speaking Nov. 12 at a session of the temporary commission on tax arrears, he added that in some regions local tax administrations cannot even recoup their own budgets.

Rada orders stop to fines

(OMRI/INFOBANK)—The Ukrainian Parliament on Nov. 13 passed first reading on a bill ordering the government to stop fining citizens for delinquent rent and utilities payments until it pays off its huge debt for public-sector wages and pensions. The ban is to come into effect on Jan. 1. The draft law is to be prepared quickly for second reading.

Rada extends paid leave

(INFOBANK)—The Supreme Council on Nov. 15 extended the amount of annual paid leave to 24 days. Until now this term was three days shorter. According to the estimates of Ukrainian MP Serhiy Teriokhin this change will result in additional costs of UAH 380 million (C$271.5 million) to cover the expenses of three additional paid holidays for employees of government-subsidized enterprises.

Government want lockouts legalized

(INFOBANK)—The Cabinet of Ministers has submitted a draft law granting company owners or other authorized bodies the right to lockout their employees during strikes. The draft provides for the formation of a national conciliatory and intermediary service which is to patch up labor conflicts and contradictions. Experts of Ukraine's ministry of labor believe the new service staff must not exceed 60.

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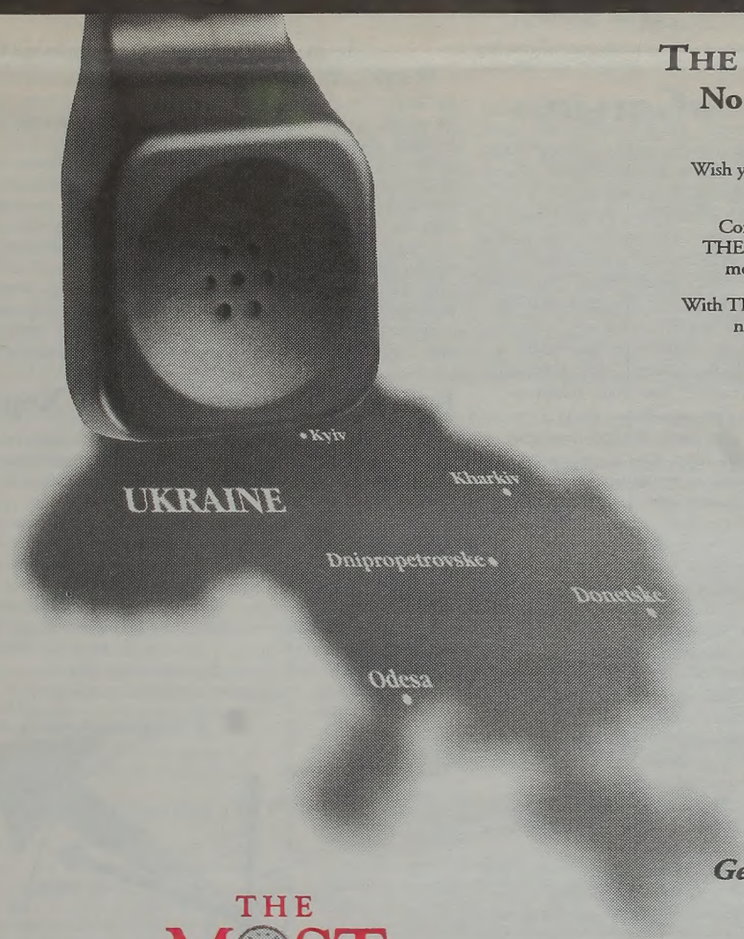

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Коротко

Пікетування російського консульства

(Прес–Центр «Південь»)—18 листопада крайова організація Народного Руху України провела пікетування перед будинком російського консульства. Пікетування відбулося під гаслом: «Росія — руки геть від Севастополя». Російському консулу в Одесі було вручено Заяву протесту підписану представниками національно–демократичних сил регіону.

Зростання Молодого Руху

(РУХ–Прес)—Осередки Молодого Руху створено в Черняківському та Новоград–Волинському районах Житомирської області. Головним завданням нових організацій визначено участь у всеукраїнській кампанії «Конституція. Свобода. Освіта».

Обробляти землю нічим

(КБУВ)—Міністерство сільського господарства та продовольства України зізнається, що техніки для повноцінного господарювання катастрофічно не вистачає. З 87,9 тисячі зернозбиральних комбайнів у колективних господарствах 73 тисячі підлягають списанню.

Олії — в досталь

(КБУВ)—Це вид продукції, якого в Україні традиційно виробляється більше за власні потреби. Власне споживання становить 600 тисяч тонн, а буде реалізовано цього року 1 млн.

Обмін канікулами

(Прес–Центр «Південь»)—Між школярами Миколаївщини і західних областей України, як відомо, налагоджено добрі стосунки. Кожного року коло учасників обмінних поїздок у гості на канікули постійно збільшується. Під час проведення урочистостей з нагоди 30–річчя Миколаївської Середньої школи № 26 учнями закладу вручено 20 путівок на поїздку у дні Різдв'яних свят до західноукраїнських ровесників.

Борошно–мельний комплекс в Одещині

(Прес–Центр «Південь»)—В районі Балта, Одеська область, розробляється проєкт щодо створення великого борошно–мельного комплексу за німецькою технологією. Розрахунки показують, що якщо район продаватиме замість зерна борошно, то додаткові фінансові надходження складуть понад пів трильйона карбованців.

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Звернення Президії Секретаріяту СКУ у 50–ту річницю «Акції Вісла»

Багато горя зазнав наш народ від окупантів, які на протязі століть приходили на наші землі. Одною з таких трагедій останнього часу, це ганебна «Акція Вісла».

В 1947 році комуністичний уряд Польщі раз на завжди хотів розв'язати проблему корінного українського населення у межах сучасної польської держави.

Жорстоким терором та насильством депортував біля 150 тисяч українців з українських етнічних земель Підляшшя, Надсяння, Лемківщини та Бойківщини. Знищили багато церков, пам'яток культури, але українського духа в народі знищити не змогли.

Українська громада Польщі під проводом Об'єднання Українців Польщі вже від довгих років робить старання, щоб уряд Польщі засудив політику попереднього комуністичного уряду, ганебну «Акцію Вісла», як злочин проти українського народу. Президія Секретаріяту СКУ завжди піддержувала становище ОУП. Ми з признанням схвалили рішення Сенату Польщі, який вже в 1990 р. засудив «Акцію Вісла». На жаль не зробив це уряд Польщі.

Тепер, в 50–річчя цієї трагедії знову звертаємося з закликом до Президента, Сейму та уряду Польщі засудити «Акцію Вісла» і згідно з міжнародніми законами вибачитися перед потерпілими та признати їм відповідне відшкодування.

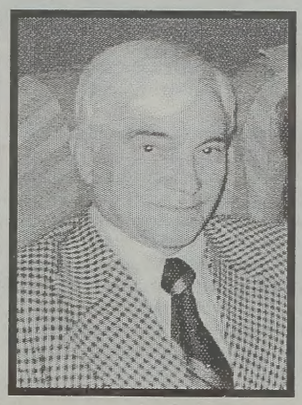
Звертаємося до Президента та уряду України, щоб підтримав оправдані вимоги української громади Польщі. Уважаємо, що задля добросусідських відносин між державами Польщі та України справа ця мусить бути позитивно розв'язана.

Просимо Всі наші складові організації, центральні, крайові та громадські проводи активно піддержати заходи ОУП.

У 50–ту річницю клонимо наші голови у пошані всіх тих, що потерпіли від «Акції Вісла».

Звертаємося до українців у всіх країнах нашого поселення, щоб гідно відзначили цю трагічну подію в історії нашого народу.

Президія Секретаріяту
Світового Конгресу Українців
Листопад, 1996 р.



† У 20–ту річницю смерти бл. п. Романа Солтикевича, який відійшов у вічність 17–го листопада 1976 р.
У світлу пам'ять мойого дорогого батька

«Батьку»

Двадцять років переходять,
Коли Ти зі світа мені пішов.
Мої мрії уявляють,
Як в рідні хаті ти існув.
Твоє життя ти присвятив,
Любові до української пісні.
Твою незабутню творчість,
На віки тут нам залишив.
Навчив Ти мене ту любов,
Коли співаю то відчуваю,
Часто сльози мені течуть,
Спогади про Тебе пливуть.
Твої улюблені хори,
До цього дня співають.
В Твою пам'ять пісні лунають,
Милі враження залишають.
Багато літ уже минуло,
Коли Тебе, «Батьку» я назива.
Хвилини мої засмучені,
В сім'ї наші, Тебе нема.
Будь певний про Тебе не забуду.
Зичливим батьком мені був.
Днями Тебе нагадаю,
Чудові спомини я маю.
Мій батько був моє крило,
Приклад його слідувала.
Завжди мені було мило,
Радости багато мала.
Сьогодні Тебе я згадаю,
І пісні Твої пригадаю.
Як вже лежав Ти на землі,
Твій улюблений «Крилець»
піснею прощали.
«Крилець, крилець сокола дай,
Полину злечу в рідний край.
Крилець, крилець хай злечу там,
До мого щастя, райських брам.
Там чародійні тихі акорди.
Рай і спокій відчує грудь,
Несіть мя крильця край прилуд».
Спочивай спокійно Ти мій батьку.
Нехай земля буде Тові легкою.
А в моїм серці запам'ятаю,
Бо в піснях Тебе почуваю.
Вічная Пам'ять.

Доня Надя

Державні газети — державною мовою

(РУХ–Прес)—Запорізькі обласні організації «Просвіти», Народного Руху та інших демократичних організацій звернулися до Президента України Леоніда Кучми та міністра юстиції Сергія Головатого. Вони висловили занепокоєння мовною ситуацією в області.

«Нам не зрозуміло, чому районні і міські Ради друкують свої газети недержавною мовою. Навіть єдина україномовна газета області — друкований орган облради — «Запорізька правда» відтепер друкуватиметься також російською», — говориться у зверненні.

Автори звернення вимагають від Сергія Головатого дати офіційне роз'яснення про використання недержавної мови у державних засобах масової інформації, а від Леоніда Кучми, як гаранта Конституції — вплинути на мовну політику не тільки в Запоріжжі, а й у всій Україні.

Членів УНСО буде звільнено з в'язниці у Білорусі

(КБУВ)—Вони потрапляють під амністію, оголошену президентом Білорусі напередодні референдуму по конституції, як особи, котрі засуджені на строк до 5 років і на час оголошення амністії відбули у в'язниці третину строку.

На волю буде випущено четверо, а за решту трьох ведуться переговори. Можливо членів УНСО буде передано Україні, бо офіційні особи з президентської адміністрації вже висловлювалися про те, що це для Білорусі обійдеться дешевше.

Схоже, однак, на те, що засуджені члени радикальної української організації не каються за участь в антипрезидентській демонстрації в Мінську в квітні цього року. Вони відчувають потужну підтримку опозиції і стали популярними в Білорусі людьми. А київські лідери УНСО привертають увагу до своєї організації заявами про оголошення війни президентові О. Лукашенку.

Кримінальна ситуація в Херсонщині

(Прес–Центр «Південь»)—«Стан криміногенної ситуації в області характеризується подальшим зростанням злочинності взагалі, а також збільшенням кількості тяжких злочинів проти життя людей, майнових інтересів громадян і держави, злочинів скоєних у складі груп, із застосуванням зброї та транспорту» — про це повідомлено на засіданні постійної комісії з питань законності та правопорядку, захисту прав громадян в Херсонській обласній Раді народних депутатів.

Причиною негараздів було названо недостатньою кількістю розмірів фінансування на боротьбу із злочинністю. Було ухвалено рішення звернутися до всіх депутатів обласної Ради, її постійних комісій за підтримкою щодо вирішення питання з фінансуванням реалізації пляну подолання існуючих недоліків.

Як Ви вважаєте, все, що відбувається в Україні, йде в правильному чи неправильному напрямку?

Опитування проводила соціольогічна служба «Соціс–Геллап» серед 1200 чоловік, які репрезентують населення України.

Poor harvests to continue until sector reformed, study says

By Ron Synovitz

(RFE/RL)—For most of the world, 1996 has been a year of bumper grain harvests. But experts in Russia, Ukraine and Bulgaria say their poor harvests could mean expensive imports, higher bread prices, or in the worst case, winter bread shortages.

Ukrainian Agriculture Minister Anatoliy Korishko blames the weather. It's an explanation that is easily digested by voters who will pay more for bread.

Yet a recent study by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) says the poor harvests are likely to continue until agriculture reforms are implemented.

Indeed, similar agricultural policies exist in all of Eastern countries reporting meager harvests. A key feature is that farmers are forced to sell grain to state purchasing boards at prices far below world levels.

In Ukraine, where agricultural output has declined by 30 percent in the last five years, the World Bank faults what it calls "unsustainable policies that are a legacy of the past."

This month, the World Bank approved a US$300 million loan to help replace Kyiv's centralized agricultural administration with market mechanisms. The Bank also is urging an end to restrictions on exports so that farm output can flow through commercial channels.

The OECD says Ukrainian farmers have little incentive because of the low prices offered by state procurement agencies.

Ukrainian farmers are forbidden to sell grain through the commodities exchange until they have fulfilled their state contracts. That means that a high proportion of produce continues to be sold through the state procurement agencies.

Meanwhile, a powerful collective farm lobby has successfully blocked agricultural privatizations. Just two percent of the country's farmland now belongs to private farmers. Despite a government mandate to streamline the process, very few collectives have actually distributed actual plots or equipment to entitlement holders. The OECD says that about 70 percent of Ukraine's large farms are now practically insolvent.

Ukraine was once the breadbasket of the former Soviet Union. Last year's harvest had been the lowest in more than 30 years. Tellingly, this year's harvest is down 25 percent from last year.

Oleksandr Slyarov, executive director of the Ukrainian Agriculture Exchange, says Kyiv will still export about two million tons of wheat this year, but it will be mostly low-quality feed grain. Bread prices have already risen several times in Ukraine this year. They are expected jump again this winter.

Despite Ukraine's limitations, the OECD says the country's agro-food sector is almost certainly closer to stabilization than those in Belarus, Kazakhstan or the Russian Federation.

World Bank approves US$300 million for agricultural reform

(INFOBANK)—Yuri Shcherbak, Ukrainian Ambassador to the U.S., and Basil Kavalsky, Director of the IV Europe Countries Department of the World Bank on Nov. 14 in Washington signed an agreement for a US$300 million Agricultural Sector Adjustment Loan (Ag SECAL) to Ukraine in support of the government's efforts to promote the growth of market-based agricultural system.

Since Ukraine joined the World Bank in September 1992, Bank commitments total approximately $1.6 billion for 10 projects.

The loan will facilitate the implementation of key agricultural and trade reforms aimed at increasing market competition, encouraging private ownership, and promoting investment in land and other productive assets. The loan will also provide financing for short-term, balance-of-payments support to improve the availability of crucial imported agricultural inputs.

The government of Ukraine has developed an extensive agricultural sector reform plan to increase the sector's efficiency. The main priorities of the reform program are to improve agricultural terms of trade, increase input flows to farms, expand agricultural exports, and improve the efficiency of farm management.

The Bank's Ag SECAL will strengthen the government's reform program by developing markets to replace the centrally planned administrative system, increase rural welfare, and promote future capital formation; promoting land reform and farm restructuring through the development of viable farm management units; helping to reduce state procurements and restrictions on agricultural exports so that farm output will flow through commercial channels and domestic markets; and encouraging privatization and demonopolization of existing agribusiness firms.

Budget debate postponed

(INFOBANK)—Ukraine's parliament on Nov. 12 agreed with cabinet's proposal to postpone debate on the 1997 draft budget until the end of the month. By that time the government plans to come up with another version of the draft budget, based on a new tax policy. President Kuchma opposed the original draft budget because it was based on the old tax system. On Nov. 9 he said a new tax system has been finalized by cabinet. The President also said he commissioned the Cabinet of Ministers to prepare forecasts on how the proposed tax decreases are going to affect budget revenues and how soon the Ukrainian economy will react positively to the proposed measures.

Greece, Ukraine sign cooperation agreements

(OMRI/INFOBANK)—President Leonid Kuchma on Nov. 12 wrapped up a two-day official visit to Greece.

The previous day, Kuchma met with his Greek counterpart, Kostis Stephanopoulos, and with Prime Minister Kostas Simitis.

Simitis and Kuchma initialed a Ukrainian-Greek friendship treaty.

Kuchma stressed the need for economic and security cooperation and said NATO should sign agreements both with countries willing to join the alliance and with those who do not want to "in order to avoid a new division of Europe."

Simitis said Greece backs Ukraine's efforts to find "its own place in the new world order.

That same day, Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos and his Ukrainian counterpart, Hennadiy Udovenko, signed three bilateral agreements: on international passenger and freight transportation, on tourism, and on science and culture.

Udovenko said the accords complement the friendship and cooperation treaty signed earlier.

Pangalos said Greece supports "the establishment of Ukraine's close relations with the European Union (and) its developing contacts with NATO as well as active participation in Balkan cooperation."

Greece is ninth among West European countries in trade with Ukraine.

According to Ukraine's State Customs Committee, trade turnover between the two countries in 1995 has grown twice compared with 1992, from US$76.2 million to US$ 113.3 million. For the first nine months of 1996 its level has reached US$ 116.2 million.

Duma eyes Transnistria

(INFOBANK)—The Russian State Duma has adopted the resolution declaring Transnistria region of Moldova, which borders on Ukraine, a zone of Russian special strategic interests, reported ITAR-TASS Nov. 14. Referring to NATO expansion plans, the resolution calls on President Boris Yeltsin and the Council of the Federation to consider the establishment of a permanent Russian military base in that region. The resolution calls upon Russian government to conclude cooperation agreements with the self-declared Transnistria Republic in the field of culture, economy, military partnership and to extend economic aid to it.

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Мер Ялти протестує проти рішення ВР Криму

(УНІАР)—Як ми вже повідомляли, п'ята сесія ВР Криму ухвалила постанову з приводу звернення мера Ялти до Президента України щодо надання місту спеціяльного статусу, яке протирічить чинному законодавству. Мер міста Ялта Микола Ліскін вважає, що таке рішення ВР Криму все ж таки не є правомірним, оскільки звернення до президента грунтувалося на підготованому ялтинським міськвиконкомом проєкті Закону України «Про статус міста Ялта, як загальнодержавного міста–курорта». Ялтинська міська рада делегувала міськвиконкомові та меру Ялти право підготовки цього законопроєкту та його направлення на адресу Президента і ВР України. Автором цього законопроєкту є депутат ВР України від міста Ялта, Ігор Франчук.

У свою чергу, пресовий центр ВР Криму інформує, що зараз у ВР Криму Комісією з місцевого самоврядування та державного устрою готується проєкт закону «Про статус міста Ялта», який потім буде направлено до ВР України.

Письменники на роздоріжжях

Ігор Стратій

(КБУВ)—Черговий з'їзд Спілки письменників України відбувся в Києві. Його називають другим, оскільки попередній, що проводився навесні 91–го, скликався як десятий, а під час проведення перейменувався в перший, що знаменувало рішучий поворот письменників до української самостійности.

З того часу, на жаль, письменницька громада не може «знайти себе» і відшукати ефективні форми організації. Чимало письменників пішли і «не вийшли» з політики, видаватися стало важко, а творча молодь нігілістично ставиться до колег старших поколінь та їхніх структур, вбачаючи у Спілці обитель старого «правильного» мистецтва.

Тому головним завданням з'їзду, як наголошував голова СПУ Юрій Мушкетик, було «будь–що зберегти єдність» українського письменництва. Але якихось дієвих рішень на забезпечення цієї мети прийнято не було. Творчий конфлікт «батьків і дітей», певне, продовжуватиметься.

Головою СПУ майже одноголосно знову обрано прозаїка Ю. Мушкетика.

Милосердя заборонити не можна

(РУХ–Прес)—Народний Рух України провів доброчинну акцію спільно з Всеукраїнським благодійним фондом Святого Миколая та УАПЦ. Відбулася зустріч з дітьми в Центрі реабілітації спинальних хворих, який функціонує на базі четвертої клінічної лікарні Залізничного району Києва.

Це перша в Україні медична установа, яка опікується хворими, позбавленими можливості самостійно пересуватися. Зараз тут утримується 20 хворих.

Народний депутат України Лілія Григорович мала розмову з хворими дітьми та їхніми батьками. Гості почастували дітей фруктами та передали лікарні передплату на кілька примірників газети «Час–Time».

Священики УАПЦ розповіли про свої наміри збудувати в лікарні капличку, освятити приміщення. Проте заступник голови райради Тарасенко вдався до заборон... Однак, не вдалося заборонити отцю Петру відвідувати хворих.

«Незважаючи на такі непорозуміння з районною владою, — вважає учасник зустрічі, голова оргвідділу Секретаріяту народного Руху Іван Шулик, — хворі відчули, що ними цікавляться, що вони теж частина суспільства. Адже це чи не перший випадок в Україні, коли держава виявила інтерес до таких обділених долею людей».

Newsbriefs

Reformer to head State TV

(OMRI)—President Leonid Kuchma has appointed Viktor Leshyk as president of the Ukrainian State TV Company, Ukrainian TV reported on Nov. 14. Considered a progressive, Leshyk has headed the private Gravis-TV company since he was removed nearly two years ago as program director of Ukrainian State TV in favor of more conservative management. Kuchma also appointed Valeriy Mezhynsky as acting head of the State TV and Radio Committee. Both posts were held by Zinoviy Kulyk, a conservative, who was recently named the country's minister of information.

Christian Democrats to reunite

(OMRI)—Ukraine's two Christian Democratic parties have announced plans to reunite at an upcoming extraordinary congress in an effort to boost their chances in the 1998 parliamentary elections, UNIAN reported on Nov. 11. A group led by Volodymyr Stretovych last year split away from the Ukrainian Christian Democratic Party to form the Christian Democratic Party of Ukraine. The parties claim that removal of the controversial founder of the UCDP, Vitaliy Zhuravsky, has paved the way for their reunion.

Transportation committee set up

(INFOBANK)—The Cabinet of Ministers has approved the regulations creating a State Commission on Transportation Corridors. This commission will examine projects related to Ukraine's participation in developing international transportation corridors and inclusion in the international transportation system. First Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Durdinets was appointed chairman.

Belarus police clash with protesters

By Jan de Weydenthal

(RFE/RL)—Riot police moved again onto the streets of the Belarusian capital Minsk, Nov. 17, forcibly dispersing yet another popular demonstration against the methods of President Alyaksandr Lukashenka.

Several people were injured when police beat protesters with truncheons. Numerous others were detained. The demonstration, which involved thousands of people marching in the city's center, was filmed by a Russian television crew and later showed to the Russian NTV audience.

Local Belarusian media made no mention of the clashes. And the Belarusian Security Council, an agency representing the views of the President, charged Sunday that the NTV was spreading lies about the protests in Minsk.

"There has been nothing of the kind on the street of Minsk," the council said in a statement, threatening to take the network off the air in Belarus.

In a related development, Belarusian Prime Minister Mikhail Chigir is reported to have threatened to resign unless Lukashenka changes his methods.

The current turmoil focuses on Lukashenka's drive to expand his powers in a referendum scheduled for Nov. 24. His opponents charge that this would impose a full-fledged dictatorship.

Lukashenka's moves were rejected by the parliament and ruled illegal by the country's Constitutional Court. The president has ignored those protests.

Earlier, Lukashenka sacked the head of the national Electoral Commission, Viktor Hanchar, after the official had qualified the way the referendum was prepared and conducted as "a national disgrace," and said that he would not sanction its results.

The government had opened the polls for "potential absentee voters," that is those who might find it difficult to cast ballots at the scheduled time. This only made it possible to manipulate ballots, prompting Hanchar to protest the procedure.

But Lukashenka presses on, ignoring public protests, political criticism and legal challenges. He has done so for more than two years, ever since his election in 1993. He has suspended labor unions, muzzled the media and put down opposition.

During recent months, he forcibly suppressed several mass demonstrations, staged mainly on the streets of Minsk and other large cities. Many of his critics have been periodically detained, and top opposition leaders were forced into exile.

Lukashenka claims acting in the interest of Belarus and its people. But his policies seem to center on two objectives alone: full integration of the country with Russia and the expansion of his personal power. There have been no benefits for the public. As the Belarusian economy has almost collapsed, this only pushed down the population's standard of living to the verge of poverty. The union with Russia is still far from being consumed.

But Lukashenka is likely to win his referendum. He still enjoys popularity among rural and impoverished Belarusian masses, who see in him a valiant fighter against corruption in government and a decisive and strong leader. After all, he told them so. And no one else is allowed to tell them otherwise.

Ukraine concerned about Belarus

(RFE/RL)—Ukraine's Parliament on Nov. 19 adopted a resolution expressing "deep concern" about rising tension in neighboring Belarus over President Alyaksandr Lukashenka's plans to hold the referendum Nov. 24 intended to extend his powers.

The resolution, passed after a brief debate, refers to the worsening conflict between different branches of authority in Belarus but avoids singling out one side for blame.

In the Ukrainian lawmakers' words: "We are strictly following the norms of non-interference in internal affairs but are also strictly following the norms of parliamentary (conduct)."

The Ukrainian parliamentary resolution calls on government and parliamentary officials in Belarus to show mutual understanding and abide by the constitution to maintain democracy and security in the region".

The Ukrainian Parliament says it is certain that what it terms the "fraternal Belarusian people" will find a constitutional way out of their internal problems.

Ukraine's government has kept silent on the Belarus conflict, but parliamentary speaker Oleksander Moroz said he is in continuous contact with his outspoken Belarusian counterpart Semyon Sharetsky, who opposes Lukashenka's drive to expand presidential power.

Further NATO cooperation discussed

(OMRI/JF Monitor)—Defense Minister Oleksander Kuzmuk and NATO Deputy Secretary-General Sergio Balanzino in Brussels discussed the further development of relations between Ukraine and NATO within the Partnership for Peace (PfP) program, Ukrainian media reported on Nov. 9.

Kuzmuk on Nov. 11 met with Dutch Defense Minister Joris Voorhoeve to discuss cooperation between Ukraine and Netherlands within the PfP program, ITAR-TASS reported.

The ministers agreed to begin exchanging training visits of Dutch and Ukrainian servicemen.

Nov. 4-6 Gen. Klaus Naumann, chairman of NATO's Military Committee, conferred with Ukrainian leaders during a three-day visit.

Talks focused on developing a NATO-Ukraine "special partnership," which was described as paralleling, but not rivaling, NATO's evolving relations with Russia.

Naumann also renewed assurances that NATO does not plan to station nuclear weapons in countries that will join the alliance.

NATO will open an information center in Kyiv.

And in Washington, the U.S.-Ukrainian Foreign Policy Committee held its inaugural session. It is co-chaired by U.S. ambassador-at-large for the newly independent states, James Collins, and Ukrainian deputy foreign minister Anton Butenko.

A joint statement described the Committee as a "valuable mechanism for constructing a U.S.-Ukraine strategic partnership based on common values and goals."

The committee is one of four under the recently established U.S.-Ukrainian intergovernmental commission.

Ukraine, Hungary agree on NATO enlargement

(OMRI)—Hungarian President Arpad Goncz, during a visit to Kyiv Nov. 14-16 aimed at boosting bilateral ties, said that Hungary does not want to have nuclear weapons on its territory if it is accepted into NATO, Ukrainian and international agencies reported on Nov. 15.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma confirmed that the two countries have no differences over the issue of NATO enlargement and European security.

An agreement was signed on taking care of military graves and the maintenance of memorials.

The two leaders attended the opening of a reconstructed bridge across the border River Tisza on Nov. 16 and discussed economic relations.

Goncz also visited the Transcarpathian region of Ukraine, which is home to some 170,000 ethnic Hungarians.

The Hungarian-Ukrainian trade turnover grew from US$300 million in 1993 to $664 million in 1995.

Hungarian companies had invested $23.2 million in the Ukrainian economy by the middle of 1996.

Parliament plans to limit cabinet size

(InfoBank/UkrNews)—Nov. 12 parliament passed first reading on a draft law that will limit the number of cabinet posts to 25.

This would include the five specifically referred to in the constitution (Justice, Finance, Foreign, Defense and Interior) plus 20 others. Currently there are 45.

The draft also states the cabinet's powers can be suspended in four cases — when a new president is elected, when the president decides to terminate government's powers, when parliament votes non-confidence and when the prime minister resigns or dies.

Parliament accepted this draft over two others proposed, including one submitted by the government.

First Deputy Prime Minister Vasyl Durdinets, who introduced the government draft, said that some paragraphs in the one accepted contradict the constitution.

He voiced objections to the limits on cabinet strength and a section which would allow parliament to choose the prime minister if it rejects the president's choices twice.

GMCC hosts Ukraine resource members

CIDA announces aid to non-profit sector

(GMCC/CIDA)—In co-operation with the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), the Voluntary Sector Management Program at Grant MacEwan Community College (GMCC) in Edmonton hosted delegates from the Western Ukraine Resource Centre (Western Ukraine) and the Kharkiv Centre for Gender Studies (Eastern Ukraine), Nov. 7-9.

Both organizations want to develop into a fully-operational umbrella Non-government Organizations (NGO) providing support services of various kinds to other NGO's in Western Ukraine. Grant MacEwan has successfully operated the Resource Centre for Voluntary Organizations (RCVO) under the umbrella of the Voluntary Sector Program for the past ten years.

On Nov. 9, the college's Ukrainian Resource and Development Centre co-hosted with the Ukrainian Canadian Congress the session "Building a Community".

Delegates also participated in a tour of West Edmonton Mall and attended the evening performance of the Canadian Finals Rodeo on Nov. 8.

In conjunction with this visit, Judy Bethel, MP for Edmonton East, announced that Canada will help strengthen the non-profit and voluntary sector in Ukraine. She made the announcement on behalf of Don Boudria, Minister of International Co-operation and Minister responsible for La Francophonie.

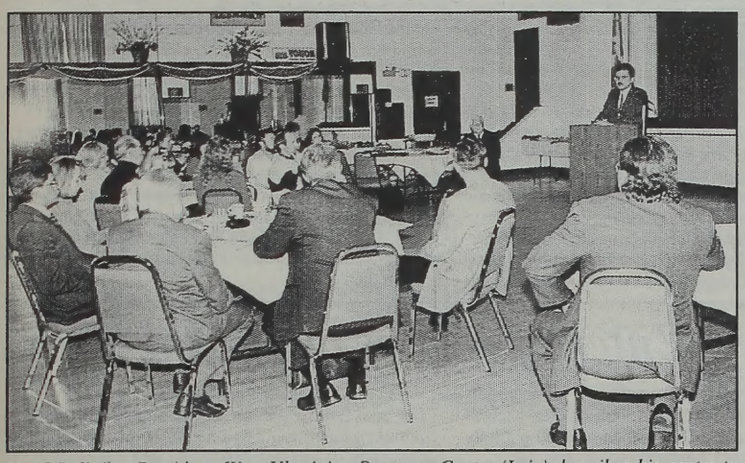
"A healthy democracy depends on the active participation of non-profit groups and community organizations," said Bethel. "By strengthening Ukraine's civil society, we are furthering democratic reform and promoting sustainable human development."

Funded by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Partners in Civil Society program will strengthen Ukrainian NGOs and increase links with their Canadian counterparts through staff exchanges, training programs, management courses and data base development. Five Ukrainian NGOs from various sectors will participate in the initiative: West Ukrainian Resource Centre; Democratic Initiatives Foundation; Kharkiv Centre for Gender Studies; Lviv Board of Education; and Plast Ukraine, a Scouting organization.

CBIE, a national NGO that promotes Canada's international relations through exchanges and technical assistance in education, will implement the program in cooperation with various educational institutions and other partners across Canada, including GMCC.

CIDA is contributing C$1.2 million to the program over two years.

Delegation from West Ukrainian resource Centre (WURC) and Kharkiv Centre for Gender Studies (KCGS) visit the Ukrainian Canadian Archives and Museum in Edmonton, Nov. 9. From left to right, Taras Andrusiak (WURC), Yuri Shveda (WURC), Tatiana Zhurzhenko (back to camera) from KCGS, Yuri Shpak (WURC), Oleksandra Mikhaljak (WURC), Olena Horyeva, Svetlana Pchelina (KCGS).



Vasyl Poliujko, President, West Ukrainian Resource Centre (Lviv) describes his centre to leaders of various Ukrainian Canadian organizations in Edmonton, i.e. Ukrainian Women's Organization of Canada, Ukrainian National federation, Ukrainian Professional and Business Club, Ukrainian National Association, Ukrainian Canadian Social Services) at lunch hosted by the UWOC at the UNF Hall Nov. 9.

UCPBF holds Western Conference

(UkrNews)—Twenty delegates from Ukrainian Professional and Business Clubs in Victoria, Vancouver and Calgary participated in the Ukrainian Canadian Professional and Business Federation's (UCPBF's) Western Conference held in Vancouver, Oct. 25-27.

"On a scale of one to 10, it was a nine plus," said UCPBF President Raya Shadursky. "The bonds that were formed between the different cities were very positive."

Three workshops addressing major issues affecting the UCPBF membership were held.. They included relations with all government levels in Canada, Canada-Ukraine relations and community relations within Canada and the United States.

Some of the recommendations coming out of the government relations workshop included:

• Establishing relationships with all three levels of government to develop political leverage;

• A focus on lobbying and providing information from a professional and business perspective as well as such issues as immigration and language/education;

• Ensuring that any messages sent to government are consistent from all segments of the Ukrainian Canadian community;

• Fundraising for a scholarship fund to assist two or three students get involved in political training and studies;

Among the proposals from the Canada-Ukraine relations workshops were:

• That the Federation should act as a broker of information and skill training in the business/professional environment;

• Gathering and maintaining accurate national data on the expertise of UCPBF membership across Canada.

The community relations workshop recommended that:

• The Federation should encourage Associations to meet with the other organizations within their communities to open up communication about future plans, resources available and possible joint ventures;

• Conducting an ethnicity survey to find out how many people of Ukrainian heritage are located in each area in order to determine potential marketing strategies for membership)

• Encouraging utilization of local and national Ukrainian media (radio, TV, newspapers) as well as the Internet to widen the net of communication/information between all organizations;

• Encouraging involvement within the Ukrainian Canadian Congress at all levels since it is the only vehicle currently in place that government perceives as representing the entire Ukrainian Canadian community.

The conference also heard three speakers — retired Commander Yaromyr Koropecky, who discussed his involvement with the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe in setting up an office in Ukraine to deal with the Crimea and Black Sea Fleet situations, Roman Onufrijchuk, Director of TV Programming for the Knowledge Network, who addressed the need to preserve the Ukrainian community infrastructure, much of which was built up by women activists and Jerry Gangur, former President of the Royal Westminster Regiment, who spoke about the efforts to honour Victoria Cross awardee Filip Konowal.

Artist Peter Shostak also made a special presentation about the Ukrainian Endowed Scholarship fund.

Although the Edmonton P & B's did not send any delegates, Tatiana Haluk, Vice President for the Mountain Region for the Ukrainian Canadian Students' Union (SUSK) participated as a student representative.

Ukrainian Canadian appointed to Race Relations Foundation

(UCCLA)—A Ukrainian Canadian is among the 15 members of the Canadian Race Relations Foundation, chaired by former Ontario Lieut. Governor Lincoln Alexander.

He is Calgary-born Andrew Hladyshevsky, a practising lawyer with an Edmonton law firm. Hladyshevsky is past president of the Ukrainian Professional and Business Club of Edmonton and a member of the board of the Ukrainian Canadian Foundation of Taras Shevchenko.

Commenting on this announcement, representatives of the Ukrainian Canadian Civil Liberties Association in Edmonton and Calgary, Taras Podilsky and Borys Sydoruk, said:

"We are delighted that a Ukrainian Canadian community activist has been appointed to this new Foundation. Hladyshevsky brings both a legal perspective and a sense of our community's priorities to this new board. We look forward to meeting with him in the very near future and further and further briefing him about the Ukrainian Canadian community's ongoing campaign to secure and acknowledgement from Ottawa that the internment operations of 1914-1920 were unwarranted and unjust and a restitution of that portion of the wealth confiscated from the internees that was never returned. Those funds would be used entirely for educational purposes consistent with the mandate of this new Foundation."

U of T hosts SUSK Eastern Conference

Twenty delegates participated in the Ukrainian Students Club of Canada (SUSK) Eastern Conference, hosted by the University of Toronto Ukrainian Students Club Nov 1-3

The program included a speech by Alex Hordienko, a teacher from Toronto, but more importantly, an active member of the Ukrainian community for many years, with organizations such as PLAST and the Ukrainian Canadian Congress.

Hordienko talked about volunteerism in student clubs, member apathy, the need for strong leadership and other topics which related to the clubs. The talk became more of a discussion towards the end, as delegates asked about the role that students could, and should, begin to play in more "mainstream" Ukrainian organizations, as well as what these organizations could do to promote more youth involvement in their causes.

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T5E 5H5

We have done everything we can. Now it is up to you, the Listener! Take a few minutes to write Mr. Anderson a letter. The future of the program is in your hands. Thank you.
Robert J. Tomkins 473-0590

Hawrylyshyn joins Epic Energy Board

(UkrNews)—Calgary-based Epic Energy Inc. on Nov. 18 announced a that Dr. Bohdan Hawrylyshyn, Director of the International Academy of the Environment (Geneva) and Chairman of the Council of Advisors of the Parliament of Ukraine is among the four new Directors appointed to its Board .

The Board also named a new Chairman and appointed three other new Directors, enlarging the board from seven to nine members with the accepted resignations of three current Directors.

"These changes in the structure and membership of our Board will strengthen our effort to grow Epic into a mid-level international oil and gas company in the shortest possible time," said Ron Cormick, President and CEO. "We have an outstanding group of Directors, many of whom have extensive oil industry experience. In addition, we will soon announce several key additions to our management team."

Gerald J. Maier, Chairman of TransCanada PipeLines (TCPL), becomes Epic's new Chairman, replacing Robert O. Anderson, who will remain a member of the Epic Board as Chairman Emeritus. Maier was named President and CEO of TCPL in 1985 and was appointed Chairman in 1992.

The other new Directors are: John M. Beddome, Chairman of Ipsco Inc. and Director, past-CEO & President of Alberta Natural Gas Company Ltd.; and Brooke N. Wade, Chairman and CEO of Acetex Corporation, past-Chairman and CEO of Methanex Corporation.

In addition to Anderson, the other current directors remaining on the Board are Cormick; John Zaozirny Q.C., Counsel, McCarthy Tetrault; Laurencé Decore Q.C., MLA; and Edward Sampson, Director and Executive Chairman of Niko Resources Ltd, whose appointment was announced a week earlier.

Outgoing directors are Rod Husband, Michael Zwack, and Bobby Long, who resigned to create necessary vacancies for the new appointments. Zwack will continue as Corporate Secretary and Long will continue as Vice President, Epic Energy (USA) Inc.

Hawrylyshyn becomes the fourth Epic director who is of Ukrainian origin. The others are Decore, Zaozirny and Cormick, whose original surname was Kostenuk.

Corporate Secretary Zwack is also of Ukrainian origin.

Tax system overbearing

(The Rukh Insider)—According to an Analysis of Ukraine's Tax System released by the Institute of Statehood and Democracy, 400 laws currently in force regulate 36 types of taxes and numerous exemptions and privileges to them.

Just from the application of the first three main types of taxes: on the income of enterprises (30%), excise tax (30%, which is applied to most goods and services) and VAT (20%), a given firm is subject to a base tax rate of 80%.

One of the major areas taxed in addition to firm income is salaries, which are taxed at a rate of over 50%, including: the Pension fund (32%); the Chornobyl fund (12%); the Social Security fund (4%); the Fund for Encouraging Employment (2%); the Fund for Employment Security (1%).

The analysis recommends eliminating all taxes but five, lowering tax rates dramatically, simplifying collection procedures and limiting tax payment to once per quarter rather than once a month.

Government to retain 26% of strategic companies

(INFOBANK)—The draft of a government decree prepared by Cabinet Nov. 11 states that the privatization and share allocation of all strategically important companies are to be approved by the Cabinet on an individual basis and that the government's share in these companies is to be no less than 26 percent.

Cabinet authorized the State Property Fund to bring the business plans of such companies in line with its decision.

The government action plan provides for the privatization of 208 businesses by individual plans. Seventy have already begun share sales.

Government investment plunges

(INFOBANK)—Government investment in Ukraine's economy has dropped five times during the last five years, according to official data, but in reality the drop may be even larger, says a senior official.

Speaking at a seminar on government investments in Ukraine, Nov. 14, Serhiy Romanenko, head of the department of investment policy, construction and construction materials at the Ministry of Economics, also said the effectiveness of government investment dropped twice.

Romanenko compared the structure of government investments in 1990 and 1995. While in 1990 the expenditure was divided almost equally between construction (44 percent) and purchasing of new equipment (43 percent), in 1995 this relationship changed considerably: 66 percent for construction and only 21 percent for purchasing new equipment. At the same time, he added that as of April 15, 1,904 industrial construction projects were iced, 96 percent of them due to lack of financing.

Boryslav is laughing once again

Fountain Oil forms JV to develop Stynavsky field

Business

(UkrNews)—Houston/Oslo-based Fountain Oil Inc. on Nov. 18 announced that it has entered into a joint venture with UkrNafta, the Ukraine State Oil Company, relating to the further development of the Stynavsky oil field in Lviv Oblast.

The Company will have a 45 percent participation in the joint venture, with UkrNafta having the remaining 55 percent. Independent reservoir engineers have estimated that the Stynavsky oil field has remaining proven reserves of 14 million barrels (1.95 million tons).

The Stynavsky field is located within Europe's oldest oil producing region — Boryslav. It first began operating in 1852.

The Boryslav region is also the birthplace of Ukrainian writer Ivan Franko who, in 1882, wrote "Boryslav smiyet'sia" (Boryslav is laughing) — a novel about the life of Ukrainian oil workers during the Austro-Hungarian Empire.

The Stynavsky field is also in the vicinity of other substantial producing oil and gas reservoirs and two refineries. West Ukraine's largest petrochemical complex, at Kalush, is also nearby. The refineries, petrochemical plant and the various oil and gas fields are connected by an extensive pipeline grid.

The field currently produces approximately 280 barrels of oil per day (bpd) from reservoir depths ranging from 3100 to 5100 meters. Individual wells had initially produced at rates up to 470 bpd. The current producing reservoir covers more than 6000 acres, and contains two sections each with 100 meters gross thickness.

The Stynavsky field is located underneath an aquifer representing a major water supply for the region. Concern about pollution of the aquifer had restricted earlier exploitation of this field. The joint venture's development plan is based on deviated drilling to protect the aquifer. Instead of drilling vertically through the reservoir, the wells will be placed on shore and slanted underneath the water.

Commenting on the announcement, Arild Boe, Fountain's Executive Vice President, stated, "We are pleased to have finalized the joint venture and look forward to the development of the field and eventual further participation in the area. It is a promising beginning to a strong partnership and an exciting project with significant potential for Fountain Oil."

Fountain, through its 90 percent stake in Calgary-based Ukr-Ran Oil, also has a joint venture with UkrNafta to develop the Lelyaky field in Chernihiv Oblast. Uk-Ran signed the agreement with UkrNafta which created the Kashtan Petroleum joint venture to develop the field.

Ukraine Enterprise goes public on ASE

(UkrNews)—A Canadian company which targets venture capital possibilities in Ukraine has announced that its shares have been listed and traded publicly on the Alberta Stock Exchange as of Nov. 18.

Ukraine Enterprise Corporation (UEC) successfully completed its Initial Public Offering on Nov. 7, raising C$8.59 million from the sale of 2,454,161 Common Shares in the company. The proceeds from the offering will be invested primarily in a major coal recovery project in Eastern Ukraine. The company's plans call for further investment in other high-potential business opportunities.

UEC has already signed conditional investment agreements with a plastic manufacturer (Perun Plastics in Mariupol), a financial institution (Electron Bank in Lviv), a canning plant (Kherson Canning Kombinat), a food distribution company (CIL/Western Foods, whose main production facility is the Khmelnytsky Meat Plant) and a confectioner (Lviv Confectionery Company "Svitoch"). Other investment opportunities are currently being evaluated.

UEC, with its executive office in Toronto and its principal operating office in the Ukrainian capital, Kyiv, acts as an advisor to potentially high-return enterprises in Ukraine, sourcing funds for them and investing its own funds in the enterprises. The company's initial investment is in the Ecovuhillia Coal recovery Company ("Coalco"), which will extract, prepare and sell coal through the reprocessing of waste from Ukrainian coal mines.

The coal industry is one of the largest and most important industries in Ukraine, however, due to the inefficiency of current extraction and enrichment processes, mounds of rock waste have accumulated over the years which contain large amounts of useable anthracite. With its investment, UEC will introduce technologies to Coalco that will allow the company to recover this valuable resource.

"This is the kind of exciting project we are finding in Ukraine", said UEC President Chuck Loewen. "We believe there are countless business opportunities with high growth potential."

"While Ukraine may have been slow off the mark with its economic reforms, they are now firmly under way and the results are evident", Loewen added.

"Inflation is under control, a new stable and convertible currency has been introduced, and economic prospects, in my opinion, are good which means the investment climate is right."

UEC Corporate Secretary Bohdan Onyschuk told Ukrainian News that a C$10 million loan provided by the government of Canada for technical assistance frees up some of the investment capital that UEC would otherwise have had to use to restructure companies in Ukraine.

This is good for potential investors because it allows the investments to come back with a clean rate of return, he said.

Industrial waste worth US$30 billion

(INFOBANK)—According to Ukraine's State committee on geology and natural resources utilization, Ukraine's industrial waste increases by 1.5 billion tons annually and could reach 15-16 billion total by the year 2000.

It also estimates that the raw materials which the waste contains are worth US$30 billion.

So far industry recovers only 10-12 percent of its waste, while in the developed countries this figure reaches 65-80 percent.

The committees believes that the recovery of waste will meet the needs of the national economy in gallium, scandium, vanadium, thallium, niobium, quick silver, germanium for the next 10 years. Additionally, waste recovery can provide 10-25 percent of the industry's early demand in lead, zinc, copper, zirconium, silver, gold and lidium.

The committee has come up with a list of 12 Ukrainian companies whose waste contains high concentrations of rare and precious metals.

The list includes, among others, the Mykolayiv alumina plant, the Zaporizhya titanium-magnium integrated works, the Nikitovsk mercury integrated works, the Pobuzky ferro-nickel integrated works and the Crimean Titan (titanium) company.

State property to be sold at market value

(INFOBANK)—The State Property Fund (SPF) intends to sell state-owned stocks of companies' authorized capital at market prices considering their anticipated profit, reports the City newspaper.

The Fund has already come up with a draft proposal on the procedure for evaluating state-owned shares in open joint stock companies (JSC's). The same draft proposals for fixing market prices of state-owned stakes in closed JSC's are to be prepared soon.

According to the head of the SPF department for property evaluation, Nataly Lebed, each company undergoing privatization is to have its liquidating, nominal and investment value fixed which will allow potential buyers of shares to have a clear idea of what they are going to buy.

Property evaluation is to be carried out by independent experts working under contract with the SPF.

Lebed stressed that the experts will be held financially responsible for incorrect evaluation of companies' market value.

Food processing JV created

(INFOBANK)—Tad Corporation of Zurich and the Askania-Nova Ukrainian Research Institute for Live-Stock-Raising in Steppe Regions of Kherson have signed the founding agreement to establish a joint venture with US$187 million in authorized capital.

The Ukrainian side will own 75 percent of the stock.

The joint venture plans to establish a modern facility for processing cattle-breeding produce and grain will be established.

It also intends to attract tourism by organizing conferences and other events in the "Askania-Nova" natural preserve.

Portugal edges Ukraine 1-0 in soccer

Now leads World Cup '98 qualifier group

(UkrNews)—Playing a conservative, defensive game, Ukraine's national team failed to secure a victory, or even tie, which would have given them a virtual lock on advancing in the 1998 World Cup soccer qualifiers, and fell 1-0 to Portugal in Oporto, Nov. 9.

Portugal now leads the European group nine qualifier round with seven points in four games, followed by Ukraine, which has six points in three. Third-place Germany, which was held to a 1-1 tie by Northern Ireland in Nuremburg that same day, has four points, but has only played two games so far. Teams get three points for a victory and one for a tie.

Though still early in the qualifying round, Ukraine could have assured itself of at least a second-place finish with a victory over Portugal, whom they defeated 2-1 earlier in Kyiv.

Ukraine, Portugal and European champion Germany are expected to be the contenders for the top two spots in a group which also includes Northern Ireland, Armenia and Albania.

Each of the six teams in group nine plays the other five in one home and one away game in a 10-game which ends October, 1997.

A total of 48 countries are competing in nine different groups for qualification in the European zone — the largest of all in the World Cup. Of these only 14 will qualify, plus France which, as host country, gets an automatic qualification and is not competing in this round.

The nine group winners and the best runner-up will directly qualify for France '98. The eight other runners-up will be drawn in four pairs and play qualifying home and away matches, Oct. 29 and Nov. 15, 1997. The four winners will also qualify for World Cup.

After a scoreless first half, Portuguese defender Fernando Couto scored in the 58th minute with a fierce drive from close range after a mistake by the Ukrainian defence.

Yuri Maksimov's diving header after a Portuguese free-kick on the left of the box only turned the ball into the path of the Barcelona defender who fired it into the roof of the net to give the 30,000 fans something to cheer about.

After going one down, the Ukrainians pushed forward but they lacked the pace to worry the solid Portuguese defence on a pitch made slippery by the heavy humidity.

The Portuguese attacked from the start and could have gone ahead after 20 minutes but Chornomorets Odesa goalkeeper Oleh Suslov dived quickly to his right to block Luis Figo's volley.

Joao Vieira Pinto should have done better when a cross from the left by defender Dimas Teixeira found him unmarked in front of goal but he could only manage a weak header.

For most of the first half, Ukrainian striker Serhiy Rebrov, who plays for Dynamo Kyiv, was a lone figure in the Portuguese half as his team mates opted to defend in their own territory.

"Only twice in the first half do I recall Ukraine having possession of the ball in Portuguese territory and only one of those led to a meek shot for Baia to handle," commented Taras Ciuriak, one of a group of 27 Ukrainian fans from the U.K., who flew down for the game.

"Every time the Ukrainian defense got possession, they would either throw it away or lose it passively in the midfield. It was terrible.

"The Portuguese on the other hand were moving it about with confident control and but for Suslov and their own poor finishing, could have run away with the match well before halftime," he wrote in a report for the World Wide Web's Ukrainian Football Page (http://www.litech.lviv.ua/~jarecky/soccer.html).

Ukrainian coach Josef Szabo sent on Shakhtar Donetsk's Hennadiy Zubov in place of Tavria Simferopol's Serhiy Yesin at the start of the second half to strength the attack down the right flank but the visitors had few clear chances to score.

The nearest they came was when a shot by Dynamo's Maksimov took a deflection and nearly lobbed over the head of Baia with just minutes remaining.

Earlier, Pinto almost gave the Portuguese a second goal when he turned brilliantly in the area but his well-struck shot flew past the post.

"We did not have much luck but the Portuguese played very well," said Szabo. But he added that Germany's 1-1 draw at home to Northern Ireland left the group wide open.

"It was a terrible match, one of the worst I've seen," said Ciuriak. "Not just because of the result, but because of the way Ukraine played — no imagination — almost afraid. I think they gave Portugal too much respect. Or perhaps they simply thought they could defend for 90 minutes without conceding? Or perhaps they thought it wouldn't matter to drop this match, that they could afford it in the long run? I was deeply disappointed in the performance."

1998 Soccer World Cup qualifier standings

European Group 9

	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
Portugal	4	2	1	1	5	2	7
Ukraine	**3**	**2**	**0**	**1**	**3**	**2**	**6**
Germany	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Armenia	4	0	3	1	3	7	3
N. Ireland	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
Albania	2	0	1	1	1	4	1

Next matches: Dec 14 Northern Ireland v Albania, Portugal v Germany.

Teams get three points for a win and one for a tie.

Ukrainian Premier Soccer Division
Standings November 17th, 1996
(End of First Half of Season)

	GP	W	T	L	GF	GA	Pts
Dynamo, Kyiv	15	11	2	2	36	11	35
Chornomorets, Odesa	15	9	1	5	24	17	28
Vorskla, Poltava	15	8	4	3	25	13	28
Dnipro, Dnipropetrovsk	15	7	7	1	29	12	28
Shakhtar, Donetsk	15	8	3	4	26	13	27
Zirka, Nibas	15	8	1	6	16	20	25
Karpaty, Lviv	15	7	2	6	19	15	23
Tavria, Simferopol	15	6	3	6	18	20	21
CSKA, Borysfen	14	6	2	6	14	16	20
Nyva, Ternopil	15	6	2	7	15	19	20
Metalurh, Zaporizhia	15	5	4	6	18	20	19
Torpedo, Zaporizhia	14	4	2	8	13	21	14
Prykarpatya, Ivano-Frankivsk	15	4	2	9	15	27	14
Kryvbas, Kryviy Rih	15	4	1	10	13	28	13
Kremin, Kreminchuk	15	3	2	10	14	29	11
Nyva, Vinnytsya	15	2	4	9	6	20	10

The Second Half of the Season begins in March, 1997.

Business Briefs

New law to boost oil investment

(INFOBANK)—Representatives of British Petroleum have been invited to participate in the preparation of a new law on distributing profits from natural resource extraction. The new law is intended to boost foreign investment in Ukraine's oil and gas industry by establishing new conditions.

Government to retain gold mining control

(INFOBANK)—Deputy Prime Minister Victor Pynzenyk and State Minister Anatoliy Minchenko have been asked by Cabinet to prepare a draft government decree on the privatization of Ukrainian gold-extracting companies. The government's stake in the future joint stock companies is to be no less than 51 percent. The government also retains the exclusive right to issue licences for gold extraction in Ukraine.

Crimea invests in Kerch ferry

(INFOBANK)—The Crimean government has approved an investment project for a ferry service across the Kerch straits. The project, to be managed by a joint Ukrainian-Russian company, Krym-Kuban Pereprava (Crimea-Kuban Crossing), calls for the construction of three passenger/vehicle ferries and the reconstruction of on-shore crossing facilities. The total cost is US$44.7 million and is expected to be recouped in six years.

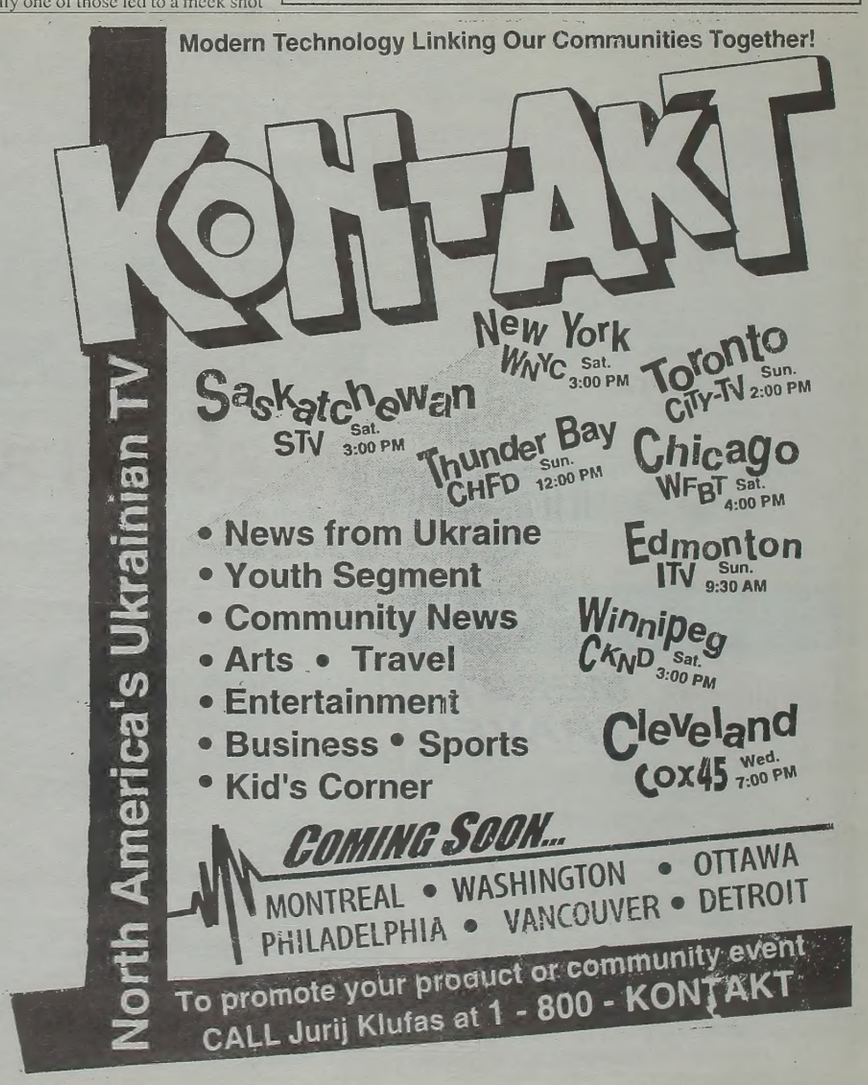
Sports Briefs

Zahorodniuk takes silver

(UkrNews)—Ukraine's Viacheslav Zahorodniuk took a silver medal in the Men's Singles event at the Trophee Lalique tournament in Paris, Nov. 15-17. He placed second to Todd Eldredge of the United States. Michael Weiss, also of the United States, placed third. The Ice Dance couple of Iryna Romanova and Ihor Yaroshenko also had a good performance. They placed third following Marina Anissina and Gwendal Peizerat of France and Elizabeth Punsalan and Jerod Swallow of the U.S.

Portugal wins in under-21

Portugal beat Ukraine 1-0 in a European under-21 soccer championship group nine qualifier on Nov. 8. Nuno Gomes scored in the 48th minute to give Portugal the win before a home crowd of 8,000 on Guimaraes.



Outside links hinted at in Lazarenko assassination try

(INFOBANK)—The attempted assassination of Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko on July 16 may have had its roots beyond Ukrainian borders, says the Secretary of National Security and the Defense Council.

Speaking at a Nov. 6 press briefing in Kyiv, Volodymyr Horbulin did not elaborate on this item, explaining that time had to pass before the results of investigation can be made public.

He disagreed with the statement of the head of the Parliamentary faction "Social Market Choice", former Prime Minister Yevhen Marchuk who insisted that November 3 assassination of well known businessman and MP Yevhen Shcherban in Donetsk was politically motivated.

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Ukraine, Georgia concur on CIS problems

(JF Monitor/INFOBANK)—In a joint communique released Nov. 6, Ukraine and Georgia recorded the "full concurrence of their interests, positions, and assessments regarding the key problems of international relations and cooperation within the CIS."

The communique capped Ukrainian Prime Minister Pavlo Lazarenko's three-day visit and talks with President Eduard Shevardnadze, which produced economic and military agreements amid an accelerating rapprochement between the two countries.

Among them were a protocol of intention to establish a Georgian-Ukrainian sea ferry and to hold a Ukrainian-Georgian-Azerbaijani conference in Odesa to discuss the establishment of a Trans-Caucasian transportation corridor between Central Asia and Europe.

Meanwhile, Georgia's naval commander, Rear Adm. Aleksandr Javahishvili, spelled out what Georgia claims "for the moment" as its share of the ex-Soviet Black Sea Fleet.

Georgia needs several minesweepers, small missile cutters, and some auxiliary vessels, the admiral said in Poti, where his Ukrainian counterpart Mikhailo Yezhel was visiting.

Ukraine and Georgia support each other's position vis-a-vis Russia concerning the partition of the Black Sea Fleet.

Moonlighting deputies stripped of seats

By Chrystyna Lapychak

(OMRI)—A Kyiv city court has ruled that 38 deputies who still hold posts in the government cannot retain their parliamentary seats, Ukrainian TV reported on Nov. 17.

Parliamentary Speaker Oleksander Moroz had asked the court to make a ruling after the deputies — including Environment Minister Yuriy Kostenko and Deputy Foreign Minister Anton Buteyko — refused to choose between serving in the legislature or keeping their government offices.

It said that they were violating the new constitution.

The deputies, meanwhile, have asked the prosecutor-general to punish Moroz for abusing his authority, claiming that he alone does not possess the authority to appeal directly to any court on such matters.

They also claim that his action was politically-motivated and that he is turning a blind eye to leftist lawmakers who still hold top posts in the private sector.

Moroz says the dispute should be handled by the new Constitutional Court.

Peacekeeping choppers earn US$3 million

(INFOBANK)—Beginning from June 29, 1995, when the Ukrainian helicopter brigade first started operations as part of the UN peacekeeping force in the former Yugoslavia, they have carried over 20 tons of cargo, earning the budget over US$3 million, says the Defense Ministry.

Speaking at a Nov. 11 press conference, Col. Olexandr Korniyets said Ukrainian helicopter troops use five models of choppers — MI-8, MI-24, MI-26, MI-2 and MI-6.

With the two last models soon to be discarded, the ministry is looking into the possibility of purchasing modern choppers abroad, he added.

Col. Korniyets also said that the total number of helicopters owned by both military and civilian ministries in Ukraine is 800. Among them are 330 military strike helicopters which is in line with the figures stipulated by the treaty on conventional weapons in Europe.

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